

Rural Community
Health Equity Initiatives
Request for Proposals
2022

Purpose:

The SC Office of Rural Health (SCORH) and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) are partners in a national initiative to address COVID-19 health disparities among high-risk and underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities and rural residents. This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

The intended outcomes of this initiative are:

- Reduce COVID-19 related health disparities
- Improve and increase testing and contact tracing for high-risk, underserved populations
- Improve health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among high-risk and underserved populations

This request for proposals allows community coalitions and organizations to propose projects that mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities. This includes ongoing technical assistance to address racial, social and health disparities for rural communities and stakeholders to aid in the execution of the project. Please note that proposed projects should demonstrate the ability to improve community-level policies, systems, or environments.

Before responding to this Request for Proposals (RFP), interested parties should review the following:

- The CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/index.html>). This information will help leaders deepen their understanding of health equity and health disparities as it relates to COVID-19.
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>). This information will help leaders deepen their understanding of what social determinants of health are, what factors contribute to good health, and what can be done to build a culture of health for their community.

RFP Timeline:

January 14, 2022 – RFP Open for Submission

January 21, 2022 – RFP Tutorial Workshop

January 31, 2022 – Proposals Due

February 4, 2022 – Proposal Review

February 18, 2022 – Recipients Notified

February 25, 2022-March 18, 2020 – Recipient Meeting/Agreements Initiated

March 25, 2022 – Kick-off Meeting

March 30, 2022-March 31, 2023 – Implement Proposed Projects

September 2022 – Project Written Progress Report Due

April 2023 – Final Report Due

Approximate Timeline for the Work:

The grant period will be no longer than 12 months, beginning at the end of March 2022. Mid-February 2022 to Mid-March 2022 will be dedicated to on-boarding awarded community coalitions/community organizations.

Community coalitions/community organizations should anticipate investing time each month, over the 12-month period, to meet with project partners who will provide technical assistance with community project development and implementation.

Eligibility:

- Any community coalition located in a rural SC county/town/city that convenes to address health and/or underlying causes of poor health outcomes is eligible to apply.
- Any organization located in a rural SC county/town/city or that services a rural SC community/county to address health and/or underlying causes of poor health outcomes is eligible to apply.

Option 1: County Eligibility:

If your geographic focus area is the whole county, the Health Equity Community Initiative grant opportunity is open to the following counties:

Abbeville	Colleton	Marion
Allendale	Dillon	Marlboro
Bamberg	Edgefield	McCormick
Barnwell	Hampton	Newberry
Calhoun	Jasper	Oconee
Chester	Lancaster	Saluda
Clarendon	Laurens	Union
Chesterfield	Lee	

****The above counties were selected because they have a rural population greater than 50%. Population estimates are from the 2020 County Health Rankings.*

Option 2: Town or City Eligibility:

If your geographic focus area is a town or city, the population must be less than 50,000 residents. Priority will be given to towns or cities with a population less than 10,000 residents or minority, low-income areas.

***Town and city eligibility is defined by the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB designates counties as metropolitan, micropolitan, or neither. A metropolitan area contains a core urban area with a population of 50,000 or more, and a micropolitan area contains an urban core with a population of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000). All counties that are not part of a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) are considered rural. Micropolitan counties are considered non-metropolitan or rural along with all counties that are not classified as either metropolitan or micropolitan.

If you are not sure if this opportunity is right for your community coalition/organization, it is strongly recommended that you complete a pre-grant consultation with Amanda Hiers - Program Manager, Community Health Transformation (ahiers@scorh.net) or Darlene Lynch – Director, Community Health Transformation (dlynch@scorh.net).

Community Coalition/Organization Expectations: Community coalitions/organizations selected from this RFP will agree to:

- Sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with SCORH outlining the expectations of both parties during the 12-month grant period.
- Participate in monthly or regularly scheduled calls or visits with project partners.
- Participate in community project development and execution.
- Develop or audit planning documents and execute proposed strategies.
- Provide feedback to project partners to help continuously improve the technical assistance and overall program support
- Participate in the overall program evaluation.

Available funding:

Community coalition/organizations will conceptualize, design, and execute a project that mobilizes partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities. This includes ongoing educational programming to address racial, social and health disparities for rural communities and stakeholders. The proposed project should also demonstrate the ability to improve community-level policies, systems, or environments.

Complete proposals for projects up to \$60,000 will be accepted by the SC Office of Rural Health through 5:00 pm EST on January 31, 2022. Incomplete or late proposals will not be considered. Proposals that do not advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities will not be eligible.

Requestor

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

Title

Direct Phone Number

Email

Street Address

City, State Zip + 4 digits

Organization

Organization Name

Physical Address Information

Street Address

City, State Zip + 4 digits

Mailing Address Information

Street Address

City, State Zip + 4 digits

County

Please specify the county in which your organization is located.

Type of Organization *(501c3, non-profit, agency, government, education, etc.)*

EIN# *(if applicable)*

Lead Applicant/Fiscal Agent

(If there are multiple agencies)

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Title

Direct Phone Number

Email

Street Address

City, State Zip + 4 digits

Fiscal Agent Description and Annual Operating Budget

Brief description of the fiscal organization and annual operating budget

Project Coordinator

The project coordinator should be the person responsible for administering the proposed project/program. If it is the same as requestor, please complete only the required field "last name."

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Title

Direct Phone Number

Email

Street Address

City, State Zip + 4 digits

Project/Program

Project Title

Project Description

Brief description of the project – what do you plan to do and how do you plan to do it? Please include monthly milestones highlighting what you expect to achieve each month of the 13-month project.

County Served

Target Population to be served (zip code, age group, racial group, etc.) (check all that apply)

- ☐ Population 65+ years
- ☐ African American population
- ☐ Hispanic population
- ☐ Persons with disabilities
- ☐ Other – please specify:

- 1. How does this project fit into current plans (Community Health Improvement Plan, pedestrian plan, transportation plan, recreation master plan, etc.)? How does this project build upon and enhance current community efforts?**
- 2. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.” How does this project address health equity?**
- 3. Describe how your community has been resilient in the face of COVID-19? (How is the community promoting healthy equity, reducing disparities, and reducing disproportionate outcomes?)**
- 4. Describe how policy, systems, and/or environments will be improved through this project.**
- 5. What opportunities exist to sustain or build upon the achievements of this project? If funding became available to build upon this project, how would you choose to sustain or expand your efforts in 2024?**
- 6. List the name(s) of the current project partner(s) - Attachment**
Please include the name of the organization, the representative name and the sector they serve (healthcare, school, etc.)
- 7. Total requested amount (up to \$60,000 for proposed project) – Budget Attachment**
Please enter the requested amount for the entire grant period you are proposing. A budget template will be included on the Health Equity Community Initiative announcement page.

Attachments

Title	File Name
Current Project Partner List	
Line-Item Budget Template	

Current Project Partners

Please list below all organizational partners, including the name of the organization, the representative name and the sector they serve (healthcare, school, etc.)

[illegible]

Line-Item Budget Template

Budget Justification:

Recipients may use funds only for reasonable program purposes, including personnel, travel, supplies, and services. Please list budget line-items for up to \$60,000.

Item	Quantity	Cost Per Item	Total Cost
Total Amount Requested			

Funding Restrictions

Restrictions that must be considered while planning the project and writing the budget are:

- Recipients may not use funds for research.
- Recipients may not use funds for clinical care.
- Recipients may not use funds to purchase furniture or equipment with a useful life of over 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000.00 or more. Any such proposed spending must be clearly identified in the budget.
- Reimbursement of pre-award cost is not allowed.
- Other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, no funds may be used for:
 1. Publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body.
 2. The salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before any legislative body.
- The direct and primary recipient in a cooperative agreement program must perform a substantial role in carrying out project outcomes and not merely serve as a conduit for an award to another party or provider who is ineligible.