Responsive Grants - Call for Ideas: FAQs

General

Can an organization submit more than one idea?
While there is nothing that excludes an organization from submitting more than one idea, we encourage organizations to prioritize requests. Any organization or group of organizations may submit the idea/issue/need that is: most pressing, in need of being addressed, and the one that is most ready to be implemented. (Chances of success will not be increased by submitting more than one idea).

What do you mean by client feedback?
We believe the foundation for success is the integration of formal research and provider experience combined with the lived experience of the target population or community that you are looking to serve. This means that all three of these elements must come together in the design, implementation, and continuous improvement of any project. Meaningful client feedback and co-creation can be accomplished in numerous ways. This includes but is not limited to having your end-user/client at the table helping to generate solutions, obtaining a more intimate understanding of the population or community being served, or designing a project. One method of doing so is through human-centered design.

What is Human-Centered Design?
Human-centered design is an approach to problem solving that puts the knowledge and needs of people experiencing a problem at the core. It provides a toolkit for deeply understanding people’s needs and experiences, generating ideas to meet those needs, and then testing solutions with – and learning from – the people that will use the program or service.

Additional resources on human-centered design:
- Overlap Associates
- IDEO
- IDEO tools
- Co-Creating Well-Being (a human-centered design project of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York for resources).
- Co-Creating Well-Being Learning Hub

If you have an idea and want or need an organization with whom to collaborate, can Health Foundation refer organizations to each other?
Any time Health Foundation staff see, identify, or know of complimentary goals, we are focused on bringing those parties together. However, we would never force partnerships. If you are seeking collaboration, please feel free to reach out to us and let us know.

Contact information: If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monica Brown, senior program officer at (585) 258-1710 or via email at ideas@thegrhf.org. For more information about the Health Foundation, please visit www.thegrhf.org.
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If you receive a grant from the 2020 Responsive Grants: Call for Ideas, does that eliminate you from receiving other grants from the Health Foundation?
No, it does not.

What is being funded?

What types of programs will be accepted? Is the Health Foundation more interested in projects that provide direct clinical services, or in projects that help clients access services?
We are most interested in the project, service, area, or need that is most pressing and needed now. In your proposal, it is important for you to “weave the thread” for how the issue/need impacts improving health inequities. We know that your research and work with community provides you access to better understanding of what that is, and in addition, how we might address it. The purpose of an open call is not to be prescriptive but to let our community partners and members be the guides. Our only focus is on investing in and addressing various health inequities that create avoidable health issues for our most vulnerable community members. (See Call for Ideas document - Our Focus and What we Will Fund sections for additional details).

Can the grant be used to extend a current successful program?
Yes, however, the same demonstration of the most pressing need and client engagement must be demonstrated.

Can you address two intersecting issues, such as food insecurity and housing?
Absolutely! In fact, we know that issues of inequity create intersecting challenges. We encourage looking at how to support improved health outcomes from a comprehensive approach.

Would the grant fit into youth service programming?
Absolutely! The Health Foundation is focused on various populations that contend with issues of inequity, including youth. (See Call for Ideas document - What we Seek to Do, Our Focus, and What we Will Fund sections for additional details).

What types of services can be funded for rural residents?
The Health Foundation invests in the health of nine counties in our region (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates). These cover rural, suburban, and urban communities. We recognize the unique differences among these geographies and strive to tailor our investments to these needs. The Call for Ideas will support the most pressing needs within our rural communities that seek to address inequities and improve the health of rural residents. (See Call for Ideas document - What we Seek to Do, Our Focus, and What we Will Fund sections for additional details).

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Is this opportunity open to neighborhood organizations/smaller organizations?
Absolutely, but you must be a non-profit and/or have a nonprofit as a fiscal agent. In fact, we designed the Call for Ideas to be accessible to a broad range of type, size, and level of organization.

Demographics

Do you need to have specific numbers/demographics on the number of people living in poverty?
In order to understand and or meet a need or address an issue, it is important that an organization has an understanding of the scope of the problem. Demographics play a role in that understanding. If you have other indicators that you think speak more to the need, please explain those indicators in detail. We are not solely focused on numbers, but we realize that numbers generally help to inform a situation.

Is it ok to estimate the demographics of the populations you serve?
Yes, in fact, we know that for a variety of reasons many organizations and programs do not or cannot collect specific demographics. In those cases, informed estimates of demographics are appropriate.

Funder Parameters

Can funding support capital line items? For example, renovation and/or construction?
We are looking to leave the request open to the true needs that have been identified without restrictions. With that said, any idea/need, etc. should be clear and your approach should include community input and be connected to improving an area of health inequity.

Can you have two lead organizations on a project?
We encourage meaningful partnership and collaboration and know that it is vital to improving the health within our communities and addressing inequities. However, one organization must be identified to take on the contractual responsibilities.

What is the range of funding? Timeline?
The projects and timelines should be solely based on the true need. However, for the purposes of this Call for Ideas, we are estimating grant award amounts in the range of $25,000 to $500,000 over a one- to five-year period. (See Call for Ideas document - Our New Process section for additional details).

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Do you fund research around interventions for specific health outcomes for target populations, e.g. African American, family caregivers of people with dementia? Because this Call for Ideas is open and seeking to hear from our community partners and community members what the most pressing needs and issues are, we would be open. However, the same criteria of community involvement and co-design would apply. (See Call for Ideas document - What we Seek to Do and Our Focus sections for additional details).

What is the report back structure of the Health Foundation if you receive a grant? Once you have submitted a Call for Ideas proposal, if your organization is invited to submit a Full Proposal and then accepted for a grant award, reporting requirements, etc. will be developed in collaboration with you and based on the project.

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