

Request for Application (RFA): Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response

Virtual Question and Answer Session

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Margarita Northrop

Julia Nagy

Office of Policy and Practice Alignment



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Important Announcement

Virtual Informational Session

October 29, 2021 at 12pm CST

November 18, 2021 at 12pm CST

Application Due Date

December 6, 2021 at 4 pm CST

Anticipated award notification date

Approximately January 20, 2022

Agenda

- Review the Request for Application (RFA) for the Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response
- Answer questions

Opportunity

- “Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response” seeks to engage local organizations to address pandemic-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding community capacity for equity and change.
- The awarded organizations will
 - develop new and build upon existing relationships and partnerships within the community,
 - adapt strategies to meet identified needs and build community empowerment,
 - work on addressing structural and systemic barriers.

Purpose of this RFA and Use of Funds

- Removing barriers, with particular focus on social determinants of health and institutional bias
- Addressing structural and systemic inequities through emerging or evidence-based practices
- Building partnerships for upstream COVID-19 prevention (e.g., paid sick leave, childcare assistance, housing programs, etc.)

Purpose of this RFA and Use of Funds

- Addressing the broader consequences of the pandemic through community-driven policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes
- Strengthening internal system capacity by focusing on partnerships for change, rather than direct service provision

Sample Approaches, Activities, and Projects

- Participate or conduct narrative training and other related activities focused on understanding and shaping public narratives
- Facilitate conversations with community leaders and members
- Health Impact Assessment related activities
- Conduct policy and environmental scans and identifying a policy agenda for change

Sample Approaches, Activities, and Projects

- Provide training and education on policy, system, and environment change
- Convene partner meetings and shared planning with community partners
- Facilitate strategic planning with community partners focused on policy, system, and environment change and equity principles
- Organize community events that align health promotion and civic engagement

Sample Health Strategies and Practices

- Housing First and policy approaches to improve housing stability
- Intergenerational communities
- Paid family leave and dependent care assistance
- Rural transportation services

Sample Health Strategies and Practices

- Restorative justice practices in the criminal justice system
- Alcohol and tobacco outlet density restrictions
- Land banking, mixed-use development, and new grocery stores in underserved areas

Resources to Help Generate Ideas

- Human Impact Partners: Health Equity Capacity Building
- What Works for Health Curated Strategy Lists
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Building a Culture of Health
- Just Recovery Briefs, Community Resilience and Response Task Force
 - Just Recovery for Racial Equity
 - Just Recovery for Rural Equity
 - Healthy Workers, Thriving Wisconsin
- UW Population Health Institute COVID-19: A Fair and Just Recovery

Awards

- DHS will issue awards of \$25,000–\$100,000 per organization.
- Approximately 40 organizations will receive awards.
- Funding will be available for use through 05/31/2023.
- Applicants are awarded based on:
 - Available funding.
 - Capacity.
 - Application scores.
- Up to half of the funding may be awarded to rural areas or agencies focused on equity and removing barriers in rural communities.

Eligibility

Applicants must be based in Wisconsin, conduct their proposed community outreach work in Wisconsin, and be one of the following:

- Local or tribal government entities
- Nonprofit entities certified as a 501(c)(3) by the federal Internal Revenue Service
- Projects sponsored by another 501(c)(3) organization

DHS Commitments

To support grantees wherever they are on the readiness continuum, DHS will offer the following resources for this effort:

- Funding, as described
- Training, coaching, and technical assistance from the UW MATCH Program, DHS staff, and others
- Training on community engagement and empowerment principles
- Peer-to-peer learning and networking opportunities
- Connections to similar opportunities to support community capacity building for structural change

Grantee Commitments

- Use resources in the manner described.
- Uphold public health practices and trauma-informed approaches in carrying forth this work.
- Use culturally appropriate and relevant messaging and services.
- Participate in a grantee orientation.
- Participate in Community Engagement and Empowerment Training as grantee capacity allows.
- Utilize technical assistance and capacity building support from MATCH and DHS as needed.
- Submit quarterly reports on number of partners mobilized; a template will be provided.
- Submit a final report on activities, a success story, and lessons learned no later than June 30, 2023.
- Prepare and submit regular expense reports.

Expenses

Example Allowable Expenses

- Personnel (salary/wages, fringe benefits)
- Necessary travel for purposes of grant activities
- Supplies (e.g., office supplies, technology under \$5,000, community outreach materials)
- Contractual costs (contract staff, grassroots awareness campaigns)
- Training and professional development of staff
- Indirect expenses benefitting multiple projects/activities
- Indirect rates equal to that approved by recipients' cognizant agency may be used. Lacking a current, approved Indirect Rate Agreement, the rate used must be no more than 10% of total proposed project budget.
- Translation and production/printing services

Expenses

Example Unallowable Expenses

- Capital purchases or leases
- Purchase of equipment (items with unit cost > \$5,000)
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs, unless incurred after December 1, 2021
- Funding advocacy or lobbying efforts
- Purchase of vaccines or providing clinical care
- Research
- Supplanting agency funds or other grant awards
- As match for other federal programs

Key Dates

Virtual Informational Session

October 29, 2021 at 12pm CST
November 18, 2021 at 12pm CST

Application Due Date

December 6, 2021 at 4 pm CST

Anticipated award notification date

Approximately January 20, 2021

Application Submission

- Submit applications to DHS no later than 4:00 pm CST on **December 6, 2021.**
- Email applications to DHSJustResponseGrant@dhs.wisconsin.gov.
- Use the subject line "Application- Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response."

Application Review

- Technical Review
- Panel Review
 - Reviewers will independently evaluate and score applications.
 - All scored applications will be compared with each other.
 - DHS will make awards to applicants who demonstrate the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of this RFA.

Favorable Applications

- Demonstrate cultural awareness and relevance
- Serve a population disproportionately impacted by inequities, including:
 - Alaska Native; American Indian; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic, Latino/a/x; Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders; people experiencing poverty; people experiencing mental illness; people of immigrant or refugee descent; people living in rural areas; people who are unhoused or experiencing homelessness; people who are incarcerated; people with disabilities; people with substance use disorders; religious minorities; LGBTQ+ persons; people living in congregate housing or in isolation.

Favorable Applications

- Are connected to community partners in underserved communities, understand the barriers faced, and demonstrate interest in advancing racial, economic and geographic equity
- Have experience working within the identified population(s) or communities(s)
- Utilize a collaborative approach

Application Narrative: Technical Requirements

- Responses should be prepared with Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial font no smaller than size 11.
- Responses should include
 - Cover Page
 - Application Narrative (5 pages maximum)
 - Partner Map (template provided)
 - Project Budget (template provided)
 - (Only for projects that are sponsored by a 501c3) A letter of commitment from the non-profit or public agency sponsoring the project

Application Narrative: Content Requirements

- Project summary
- Community need
- Project readiness
- Ideas for project strategies
- Organizational qualifications

Partner Map

- Describe your current and future partners or collaborators that will be mobilized in support of your project goals.
- Indicate the types of partners that will be engaged in your project.

Question and Answer