



**TEXAS IS
BEST WHEN
TEXANS ARE
HEALTHY**



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas**

A Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Frequently Asked Questions

Based on feedback from the community, we have created some updates as of 4/2/21. Those are highlighted in this document.

1. What is the Collaborative Innovations for Community Health grant?

The purpose of this grant is to address major social determinants of health issues in underserved communities that affect health outcomes. Our goal is to partner with nonprofits that provide innovative solutions that improve outcomes in underserved communities.

2. What is the timeline for this application?

Applications are due **Tuesday, April 6th** at 5pm and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. If you have any specific questions regarding the RFP or the application process, feel free to join our Office Hours on Thursday April 1st from [10-11AM](#) or [5-6PM](#).

3. What Texas communities will we prioritize for funding?

The four communities that are eligible to apply are:

- Austin Metro Area, Texas
- Beaumont, Texas
- South Texas/Rio Grande Valley counties: Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy & Starr
- Brazos Valley Region counties: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson & Washington

4. How much funding is available?

It's Time Texas will award up to \$50,000 per award to qualified community organizations.

5. How much funding can I apply for?

The maximum award is \$50,000. You can apply for less than \$50,000, but no more than \$50,000.

6. Who decides which grant application to fund?

We have a three-step evaluation process for reviewing applications. A diverse group of staff from It's Time Texas and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas will evaluate applications using quantitative and qualitative methods in order to reduce bias and evaluate from multiple perspectives.

7. The funder program is called “Healthy kids Healthy Families”-- does my program have to directly promote healthy kids and healthy families?

No, that is simply a funding name. The purpose of this grant is to address major social determinants of health issues in underserved communities that affect health outcomes. Our goal is to partner with nonprofits that provide innovative solutions that improve outcomes in underserved communities.

8. How will you ensure equitable distribution of funds among traditionally marginalized communities?

The CICH project is rooted in the pursuit of health equity. We require that funded projects address health disparities that are created by the marginalization of communities, particularly those of color.

9. What is a social determinant of health?

According to Healthy People 2020 (US Department of Health & Human Services), “social determinants of health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.” In other words, social determinants are the factors that affect your health that have nothing to do with your genetics or your choices and everything to do with where you live, how you are or are not affected by discrimination and marginalization, and how you identify.

A few examples of social determinants include, but are certainly not limited to: safe environments, access to job opportunities, access to education, transportation, access to physical and mental health care, social support, socioeconomic conditions, racial/ethnic marginalization, language/literacy, and more.

10. I’m not a health organization. Will my RFP be competitive?

Can you make a case for how your work impacts health? If so, then YES, you can be competitive! We are not looking for you to do a thorough literature review proving that your work will reduce diabetes by X% in your community. What we *are* looking for is that you can show us how your outcomes are relevant to health. Reference the question on social determinants of health for more information on this.

11. My agency is part of the County but has its own EIN number. We receive some County funding but also other private and federal funding. Are we eligible?

Yes, because your community action agency relies on and has established funding streams beyond the government funding.

12. If my organization has more than one project that could be eligible for funding, should I submit multiple applications on one combined application?

Organizations can request up to \$50,000 in total, even if the funding covers more than one project. If your organization has multiple projects with the same goals, targets, populations, etc, please submit one application and clearly demonstrate how

both/multiple projects work together to create impact in your community. If you are submitting multiple projects in 1 proposal, submit a budget for each project described in the proposal.

For a separate entity, even if housed under the same organization, that has separate project goals, targets, etc., they should submit separate applications with a separate budget per project.

13. Are there any standard KPIs that we need to track?

Every project is different, which means each project will have unique measures of success. However, we need to see the impact in the community within the project period and how it addresses health disparities. Because of this, we will ask you to track the number of people you serve and their demographics to the best of your ability.

14. Can CICH funds be used for staff salaries?

The CICH grant will not fund items that fall under general operations, examples include but are not limited to rent, administrative staff, payroll systems.

Examples of unallowable personnel costs include: a grant manager contracted to manage the operations of the grant or salaries for staff specifically focused on operations

Examples of allowable personnel costs include: a staff member providing DIRECT services as part of the grant (example: nurse, case manager, social worker) and part-time wages, stipends or contracts within the program budget

The purpose of the grant is to address a major social determinant of health issues in underserved communities that affects health outcomes: factors like race, gender, socioeconomic status, geography, and more. We will consider proposals from a target community that address any social determinant of health that is rooted in addressing community needs and efforts toward equity, and that can demonstrate impact by the end of the project period.

15. What's an acceptable overhead cost for a project? Is it okay if overhead includes partial salaries?

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16. What is the time commitment for Community Lab?

We plan on hosting Community Lab at least 4 times during the project period and estimate that each session will last for 2 hours. One hour of pre-work prior to each session may be required.

17. Will you fund infrastructure projects related to health? For example, would you fund the construction of new bathroom facilities so that shelter guests aren't forced to relieve themselves in semi-public places, creating an unsafe environment and a feeling of loss of dignity?

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18. What qualifies as “good financial standing” for a community-based organization?

The recipient does not need to have 501(c)3 status. The recipient must be able to submit their W9 with the application in order to receive funding. The recipient needs to have a bank account.

19. This application is in pdf and it seems like my answers won't fit into the table. Reformatting the entire table is frustrating.

The Submission Requirements are listed in a table for ease of reading, but we do not require your submission to be in the exact format reflected in our RFP. We request that your proposal be submitted with the submission requirement headings and speak to the questions and themes we outlined. However, you do not have to submit it in a table format. Putting your responses in a Word document is great.

20. Is there a possibility of future funding?

It is possible that this funding will continue but we plan to target different geographical areas in the future. This funding is not intended to be the source of sustainability for any projects funded during this cycle and should not be expected to be funded through this award in subsequent years.

21. Is there anything that cannot be funded through this award?

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22. What qualifies as supplemental material/s?

Supplemental material is at the discretion of the applicant. We invite you to consider:

- Is/Are there any additional asset(s) and/or collateral that can further supplement your program proposal?
- Is/Are the file(s) of appropriate size and format to send via email along with the final proposal?

23. For the budget, do I need to input information only for what we will use with these grant funds or including our other operating budget?

Please provide a budget for the amount of funding you are requesting.

24. If one of our programs focuses more on long-term solutions and the other focuses more on emergency response, which one is better aligned with this RFP?

We are making a short-term investment in programs that address the most pressing health issues and are able to produce meaningful results quickly. Programs who are able to demonstrate meaningful results within the project period (May 1-December 31, 2021) are most aligned with the RFP. If the agency can demonstrate meaningful results within the project period AND long-term solutions, then that is a very strong proposal.

25. Can the project already be underway as of May 1 or must it start on May 1?

If you are awarded the funds, you will receive funding starting May 1, 2021. The project proposed can already be happening as of May 1, 2021.

26. Does the project have to end on December 31 or is it simply the requirement date to end all the spending of the funds received?

If you are awarded the funds, you must spend all awarded dollars and demonstrate impact by December 31, 2021. The project proposed does not have to end on December 31.

27. I'm a regional fundraiser that also has Beaumont in my territory. Would I be able to apply for both locations without them competing against each other?

Our goal is to fund at least one (1) project in each identified region, and the total sum of funding available in each region will depend on the projected impact and alignment of the proposed project to the Collaborative Innovations for Community Health goal.

28. Does the Project have to be a COVID initiative, or can it be something impacted by COVID?

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