Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Collaborative Innovations for Community Health grant?**
   The purpose of this grant is to address access to health in underserved communities, creating innovative partnerships that improve health outcomes.

2. **What is the timeline for this application?**
   Applications are due **Friday, February 11th** 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, February 3rd from 10-11AM or 5-6PM.

3. **How do I apply?**
   Applications will only be accepted via the Application Link stated on the Request for Proposals and can also be found at cich.itstimetexas.org.

4. **For the Application Link, do I have to fill it in all at one time or can I come back to it and save as I go?**
   The link allows respondents to return to the application and edit responses. Respondents can complete a portion of a survey and return later to finish the rest. Please note we cannot guard against technical issues.

5. **Can I print my application after I submit my application?**
   No.

6. **How can I confirm that you received my application?**
   Confirmation of your application will be a page that says, "Your application has been received by It's Time Texas."

7. **Are there word limits for the longer, narrative responses?**
   No. There are no word limits for the longer, narrative responses. We do provide suggestions on sentence length of your responses.

8. **What Texas communities will we prioritize for funding?**
   The two communities that are eligible to apply are:
   -Galveston County
   -San Antonio metro

9. **How much funding is available?**
   It's Time Texas will award up to $50,000 per award to qualified community organizations. In total, $125,000 will be awarded between each region.

10. **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.

11. **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.

12. **Blue Cross and Blue Shield's program is called "Healthy kids Healthy Families" -- does my program have to directly promote healthy kids and healthy families?**
    No. It's Time Texas received grant funding for our program, Collaborative Innovations for Community Health via the Healthy Kids Healthy Families program. We are funded to address social determinants of health affecting health outcomes of underserved populations.

13. **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.

14. **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."

    A few examples of social determinants include, but are 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.

15. **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 encourage you to review our past grantees to see examples of funded projects.

16. **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.

17. If my organization has more than one project that could be eligible for funding, should I submit multiple applications on one combined application?
One organization can request up to $50,000 in total, even if the funding covers more than one project. Please submit one application per organization and clearly demonstrate how both 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.

18. 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.

19. 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. If staff salaries fall under general operations, they would not be allowable. If part-time wages, stipends or contracts fall under the program budget, then it would be allowable.

20. What's an acceptable overhead cost for a project? Is it okay if overhead includes partial salaries?
This award will not fund general operating expenses such as administrative staff salaries, general use supplies, and office space. Staff salaries that are required for direct services are not administrative.

21. What is the time commitment for Community Lab?
We plan on hosting Community Lab at least 3 times during the project period and estimate that each session will last 2 hours. One hour of pre-work prior to each session may be required.

22. Will you fund infrastructure projects related to health?
All applications demonstrating an impact on advancing health in the targeted regions will be considered.

23. 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.

24. Is there a possibility of future funding?
 This one-time grant is a starting point for inclusion into It's Time Texas' portfolio of programming. We hope to build a partnership beyond this grant to provide support to your organization's mission.

25. Is there anything that cannot be funded through this award?
This award will not fund general operating expenses such as administrative staff salaries, general use supplies, and office space.

26. 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?
- The online application will only allow you to submit 1 file for supplemental materials.
  - If you experience technical difficulties uploading, you can also email supplemental material to cich@itstimetexas.org. In that case, consider: Is/Are the file(s) of appropriate size and format to send via email?

27. 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 funding you are requesting.

28. 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 can produce meaningful results quickly. Programs who can demonstrate meaningful and measurable results within the project period (March 1 -December 31, 2022) are most aligned with the RFP.

29. Can the project already be underway as of March 1 or must it start on March 1?
If you are awarded the funds, you will receive funding starting March 1, 2022. The project proposed can already be happening as of March 1, 2022.

30. 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, 2022. The project proposed does not have to end on December 31.

31. I'm a regional entity that works in both locations. 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.

32. Does the Project have to be a COVID initiative, or can it be something impacted by COVID?
The purpose of the grant is to address a major social determinant of health 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.

33. Will we receive updated questions and answers from the two office hour sessions?
Yes, all questions asked during the office hours are published here.

34. Do you have to reference the documented community assessments we received in the RFP package on our applications?
No. We only offer these tools as potential resources for where to reference community needs.

35. Is It's Time Texas looking for specific areas of focus?
No, we are looking to address social determinants of health affecting health outcomes of underserved populations.

36. What do you NOT want to see in an application?
We do not want to see projects that cannot be linked to health. We also recognize that the funding period is 10 months. We are realistic about the level of impact that can be demonstrated in this timeframe.

37. This is a tight timeline for a project to be completed. Do we have to demonstrate results of the project at the close?
Yes. Measurable results at the end of the project are expected.

38. If I receive funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Healthy Kids Healthy Families grant, is there a conflict of interest to apply for CICH funding?
Yes, there is a conflict of interest. If you are already a recipient of Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Healthy Kids Healthy Families grant, you are ineligible for this funding.

39. Do we have to focus on a specific program or can our application cover a broad range of services?
Funding can cover broad or specific programs.

40. Can two organizations apply for joint funding through one application?
We fund one entity per award.

41. Will you fund government agencies?
We fund government agencies who have their own EIN number and established funding streams beyond the government funding.

42. Have you funded early childhood programs in the past?
We have not funded early childhood programs. CICH released its first RFP in 2021 and those projects can be found on our website.

43. Do you expect to remain in the same regions next year or do you change regions every year?
We plan to use this funding in different regions each year.

44. How specific should we be in answering the question about our board and leadership reflecting community demographics?
You should be as specific as you are willing to be.

45. Building/space" and "indirect costs" are included in the sample budget. Does this mean the sample budget includes items that would not be allowed by this grant funding?
We provided a standard budget template. We will not fund operations or infrastructure of new or existing projects.