

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

From the May 11, 2016 Pre-proposal conference meeting

Q – How would you define “community” for engagement? Could it be participants in the program that are involved in the community as a whole or what is the definition?

A – This funding is intended for communities who experience health inequities. It may be a geographic or culturally based community. The RFP asks you to define and describe the community in the proposal narrative; it is pretty open for you to determine what you want it to be.

Q – You have mentioned that the Health Department wants to partner with the community agency selected; what kind of capacity does the Department have in addressing barriers in addressing policy or connecting them with the right City departments? Is that a role the department is willing to play?

A - We want to be supportive partners to the agencies. The RFP’s scope of service provides some examples of how we can be of assistance. You also will have multiple opportunities in the proposal narrative and work plan to state what you are looking for from the Health Department. We work with different departments within the City and also many external partners such as schools, parks, academia, and small business. We would be able and happy to navigate and connect you with those who can help make the project successful.

Q – Would you clarify, the idea is to identify the need, develop pilot program and launch the program in the funding period?

A – The “challenge” or need should already be determined. The RFP asks you to describe the challenge and how it was identified. This funding is to identify and implement the solution.

Q – So we should meet with our cohort members to determine their needs then use that to build our proposals?

A – That would be a good strategy. Your proposal should describe the need or “challenge” and your plan, with strong community engagement throughout, to identify a solution which will be implemented during the remainder of the funding period.

Q – When you say involvement from a community experiencing health inequities, what does it mean?

A – The community you propose to work with should be a community experiencing health inequities, such as communities of color, American Indian community or low-income communities. Proposals will need to describe the community, how it is impacted by the challenge, and your agency’s existing connections to the community.

Q – As far as the scale of the project, what sort of volume are you trying to reach? It mentions scale but doesn’t say anything about specific numbers reached. Do you have a targeted number of

participants to reach in relation to the funding period or say the 1st 6-months or so?

A – There is no target number. We are open to hearing what you can realistically do within the budget and time frame. The scoring criteria states “Scale of the project (number of activities, reach and intensity of activities, number and role of partners) is strategic and feasible.” Reviewers will look at what you are proposing to do in the 1st and 2nd phase, and assess its feasibility considering the goals, budget and timeframe.

Q –What are you looking for in terms of numbers? a smaller group or larger group?

A - It is difficult to give a number with the various challenges you may work on and your decisions on where and with whom you want to work with. The number of participants is relative to what you are proposing. Also, it is important support different levels of engagement to meet community members interests and needs. For example, hosting events that reach many community members to get ideas for a solution vs having a smaller activities where community members can deeply share their thoughts and make project decisions. A work plan that includes activities that reach many community members, and smaller activities that more deeply engage community members is ideal.

Q – Is there a boundary where this program is to be implemented?

A – Yes, it is within the City of Minneapolis.

Q – What is exciting about this program? I feel that you are communicating that this is not same old proposal; I am sensing something new or interesting in this process.

A –What is exciting about this is this process allows for new ideas to get developed and implemented. Prior community-driven funding opportunities asked for proposals to choose their projects or outcomes from a predefined list. Also, sometimes funding opportunities are divided so that agencies need to apply for funding to plan and then apply for funding to act. We are excited this funding opportunity provides space for the community to decide on what they want to change and also for taking action.

Q- Once you identify the needs and solutions to this project, is it possible this project could be funded longer?

A – Right now we are talking short-term, August 2016- October 2017. I can't say if it is going to be a long-term program since that depends on external factors such as securing grant funds. However, we hope this funding will build the groundwork so agencies could apply to other funding opportunities if needed.