



Transforming our seven counties into the state's healthiest region

Request for Proposals

Empire Health Foundation Capacity Building Program

Introduction

Empire Health Foundation (EHF) is a private foundation located in Spokane, WA. EHF focuses on increasing the health of a seven-county region in Eastern Washington through programs that focus on access, education, research, and public policy. In addition to its responsive grantmaking program, which awards grants to nonprofit organizations on a revolving basis, EHF operates a Capacity Building Program to strengthen local communities through cross-sector collaboration. One focus of the Capacity Building Program is to invest in planning, capacity, and fund development activities to infuse our communities with grant funds from outside our region. The purpose of this RFP is to invite proposals from community-based multi-sector partnerships interested in applying for grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that will be competed in the spring of 2012. By inviting proposals now, EHF hopes that any group interested in competing for these grants will be better poised to successfully respond to RWJF's call for proposals when it is released. Up to four entities across the seven-county region will be selected for capacity-building support by EHF in the pursuit of this funding opportunity (see "Awards" for more information).

Background

RWJF intends to release a Call for Proposals for the second round of the Roadmaps to Health Community Grant program in March 2012. Built around the County Health Rankings Model developed by RWJF and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, **the Roadmaps to Health Community Grants support two-year projects to create positive policy or systems changes that address the social and economic factors that impact the health of people in their community.** The County Health Rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors that, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work, and play. These factors move beyond a focus on access to health care by also considering the critical role of education, jobs, income, and environment in determining people's health and longevity.

During the first competitive funding round in 2011, more than 300 groups applied for funding, and 12 organizations were awarded grants (no awards were made to support efforts in Washington state). Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to review synopses of funded projects at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/roadmaps>. Examples of funded projects included those focused on:

- increasing financial stability in low-income populations;
- creating entry-level jobs in low-income communities;
- expanding availability of and access to public transportation;
- creating a high-quality, universally accessible continuum of early childhood care, health, and education services; and
- preparing young people for success in postsecondary education.

During the first round of RWJF's Roadmaps to Health Community Grants (referred to by RWJF in that round as "MATCH grants"), EHF assisted four networks in submitting letters of intent. One of these applicants was invited to submit a full proposal, and EHF supported this effort as well.

Now, as we prepare for RWJF to release new Roadmaps to Health Community Grants guidelines, EHF is seeking proposals from collaborations interested in competing for these funds. EHF is making this investment because six of the counties in our region have extremely low rankings. Out of the 39 counties in the state of Washington:

- Ferry County ranked 39th
- Pend Oreille County ranked 34th
- Stevens County ranked 33rd
- Adams County ranked 24th
- Lincoln County ranked 23rd
- Spokane County ranked 22nd
- Whitman County ranked 3rd

Awards

Awardees will receive the following support from EHF in preparing an application to the Roadmaps to Health Community Grant Program:

- logistical and facilitation assistance in convening project/proposal planning meetings (includes meeting space, refreshments, meeting facilitation);
- up to \$2,500 in financial support to hire a grant writer to prepare the Phase 1 application;
- a commitment from EHF to provide a portion of the cash match required by the Roadmaps to Health Community Grant program; and
- in the event that awardees are invited to proceed to Round 2, up to \$5,000 in financial support to hire a grant writer to prepare the Phase 2 application.

Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Federally recognized tribal governments or tribal organizations
- State or local government agencies
- Lead applicant must be located in and project activities must take place in one of EHF's seven counties of focus (Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, and Whitman) or on one of the tribal reservations.
- Projects must focus on efforts to increase the health of the community by addressing the many factors that affect health (using the County Health Rankings model as a guide). Applicants should note that RWJF has not yet released the guidelines for Round 2 of funding and, thus, have not indicated if Round 2 projects must take a specific approach or have a nuanced focus. However, a focus on positive policy and/or systems changes is likely to remain a priority of RWJF.
- Multi-sector partnerships must form the backbone of project activities. To that end, collaborations must include representatives from multiple sectors (which could include but are not limited to public health, education, workforce development, transportation, and housing).
- Partnerships must have a past track record of work together, as evidenced by prior collaboration on at least one project as well as an ongoing structure of meetings or regular communications.

Application Deadline

Monday, February 20, 2012, by 5 p.m. Pacific Time

Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted using the web-based form available at https://www.gooddonegreat.com/grants/empire_grants/login.php by using the password **cap2012** to access the form. Applicants should be prepared to provide the following brief information.

- ***Project Overview***
 - Need for the project, substantiated with data sources
 - Project overview, with information on how project responds to the need
- ***Lead applicant information***
 - Name, contact information, type of agency (i.e., 501(c)(3); city or county government; federally recognized tribal government or tribal agency)
 - Agency overview (e.g., mission, core projects)
 - Lead applicant's qualifications to lead a broad-based, multi-sector community partnership to address social and economic factors that address population health through positive policy and system change, as evidenced by:
 - Demonstrated organizational capacity
 - Grant management experience
 - History of multi-sector collaboration with public and private sectors
- ***Multi-sector partnership information***
 - Number and type of partners represented
 - Role of each partner
 - Partnership history, including evidence of success in operating a past collaborative community-based project
- ***Matching funds***
 - Lead applicant's or partners' multi-year funding sources that could be applied as cash match
 - Other in-kind or cash match that could be applied to the project
 - Strategy for obtaining matching funds

Additional Information

Interested applicants are highly encouraged to review the following resources before responding to this RFP.

- The County Health Rankings (www.countyhealthrankings.org)
- First round Call for Proposals (http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/MATCHtbs_2011.pdf)
- Information on the first-round awardees (www.countyhealthrankings.org/roadmap)
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions from first-round competition, available upon email request from brian@empirehealthfoundation.org

If interested applicants have unanswered questions after reviewing these documents, please contact Brian Myers, Capacity Building Program Lead, at brian@empirehealthfoundation.org or via phone at 509-252-0196. Questions will be answered until the deadline proposals of February 20, 2012.