



## **Funding program descriptions/programmatic guide**

This document describes funding programs available through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as part of awards that CDPHE has from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, under two main sources - the National Initiative to Reduce Health Disparities grant (OT21-2103) and the *Immunization* cooperative agreement (CDC-RFA-IP19-1901). The three programs under the *Health Disparities* grant (1. *Community Engagement Program*, 2. *Community Health Navigation Program*, and 3. *Healthy Communities Program*) all have a funding/budget period that is scheduled through May 30, 2023, with a possible extension to May 30, 2024, pending guidance from CDC. The *Health Equity Immunization Events Program*, which is funded by CDC's *Immunization* funding, has a funding/budget period through June 30, 2024.

For the *Health Disparities* program areas, approximately 33% of the total dollar amount must support programming in rural areas of the state. 67% will support communities in urban (non-rural) regions. Applicants must state in their application the county or counties in which they will conduct their work. While applicants do not need to be located in the county they are serving, they should have an established presence and partnerships.

For any program area, applicants do not need to submit requests that last the entire duration of the grant. Multiple opportunities will be provided to submit applications.

Funding ranges and averages are suggestions, provided as a starting point. They are subject to change based on feedback and the individual needs of community-based organizations. Grantees are required to submit reports and a summary of activities throughout the grant year. CDPHE will release details of the requirements for these reports and summaries soon.

Incentives are allowed under both grant programs. However, each grant program has guidelines for allowability. Please refer to "[Allowable/Unallowable Expense Guidelines for CDC Grant Programs](#)" for details.

### **Part one: funding overview**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has multiple funding opportunities totaling **\$22.7 million** to support local community needs for planning, system navigation, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are four project categories: **Community Engagement, Community Health Navigation, Healthy Communities, and Health Equity Immunization Events.**

It is strongly encouraged that all applicants reach out to their region's assigned Equity Resource Specialist before applying. To connect with the appropriate Equity Resource Specialist, email [cdphe\\_dcphr\\_health\\_equity\\_community\\_grants@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_dcphr_health_equity_community_grants@state.co.us) with the name of your organization and the county or counties in which you are located and/or plan to serve.



## **Part two: programmatic details for each of the four programs**

### **Community Engagement**

#### *Purpose (Planning/Response)*

The purpose of this program is to build community capacity for reaching disproportionately affected populations with effective culturally and linguistically tailored outreach to develop a deeper understanding of community-specific assets and needs related to health equity and the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC administers funding for this program to CDPHE through the *National Initiative to Reduce Health Disparities* grant (OT21-2103). Funded community engagement work under this grant will focus on developing a better understanding of specific areas for current and future COVID-19 recovery efforts. Activities should focus on understanding COVID-19-related health equity needs within a community and providing community-level engagement opportunities to address those needs.

#### *Funding availability and budget*

CDPHE anticipates that the Community Engagement Program will have at least \$1.6 million in available funding, with a suggested average award of \$20,000 to \$100,000 total.

#### *Funding eligibility*

Applicants must be Colorado-based. Organizations with strong ties to disproportionately affected populations are strongly encouraged to apply. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to:

- Community/grassroots organizations.
- Community health centers/rural health centers/safety net clinics/federally qualified health centers.
- Federally-recognized Native American/Indigenous Tribes in Colorado, and Native American/Indigenous-serving organizations or organizations providing services on Tribal lands with a letter of support from the applicable Tribe.
- Communication firms.
- Homeowners associations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Education institutions - K-12 schools for programming (projects can not be considered research).
- Public agencies - city councils, city and county departments, and local public health agencies (except if an agency has already received funding from CDPHE or CDC for the same work, e.g. Denver and El Paso, which both received independent OT21-2103 grants from CDC, and LPHAs who are interested in receiving funds under this program need to demonstrate that other COVID-19 relief funds they have access to do not cover the proposed work).

#### *Intended use*

This program will fund projects/activities that use authentic community engagement practices to gather community input on population-specific assets and needs related to health equity and the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities should focus on improving/understanding what the needs are within a community and building partnerships and relationships between agencies that can support those needs and the community. The focus is on relationship development to identify community leaders and understand



community needs. Funds are not intended for robo calls, literature drops, etc., that lack a personal connection to the target community. Activities can include but are not limited to:

- Community scans (surveys, canvassing-style door-to-door interviews, focus groups, etc.) to gather community input on needs.
- Engagement activities around COVID-19 (e.g., vaccine, testing, treatment, prevention education).

#### *Other*

Agencies receiving funding are expected to provide reports on information collected. CDPHE will provide reporting details at a later date.

### **Community Health Navigation**

#### *Purpose (System navigation)*

The goal of this funding is to support community health navigators, also referred to as community health workers, to do vaccine outreach, patient education, and health system navigation. Patient education can include (but is not limited to) COVID-19 prevention, isolation/quarantine protocols, general treatment/disease education (not to include individual clinical services), vaccine appointment scheduling, etc. Funded community health navigators will work within the community, partnering with local community-based groups (e.g., faith-based organizations or churches, food pantries, homeless shelters, local public health agencies, pharmacies, and other entities) to educate community members, set up vaccination drives or educational events, distribute COVID testing kits and/or PPE, and conduct other COVID-19 response-related activities. Applicants should include costs for acquiring and providing testing kits and PPE in their proposals. Community health navigators build relationships and trust in disproportionately affected communities to provide appropriate information and help navigate social systems, including wrap-around services, resources, and referrals (such as providing information referrals to local providers).

#### *Funding availability and funding budget/period*

CDPHE anticipates that the Community Health Navigation Program will have at least \$2.7 million in available funding, with an average award of \$50,000 per year. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for a broad range of funding amounts, depending on their organizational resources and capacity.

#### *Funding eligibility*

Applicants must be Colorado-based. Organizations with strong ties to disproportionately affected populations are strongly encouraged to apply. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to:

- Community/grassroots organizations.
- Federally-recognized Native American/Indigenous Tribes in Colorado, and Native American/Indigenous-serving organizations or organizations providing services on Tribal lands with a letter of support from the applicable Tribe.
- Community health centers/rural health centers/safety net clinics/federally qualified health centers.



- Health care organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Transportation providers.
- Social work agencies.
- Local and nonprofit public health organizations (except if an agency has already received funding from CDPHE or CDC for the same work. Local public health agencies interested in receiving funds under this program need to demonstrate that other COVID-19 relief funds they have access to do not cover the proposed work).

#### *Intended use*

The goal of this funding is to reach disproportionately affected populations with effective culturally and linguistically tailored programs and practices for COVID-19 response support, including testing, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine support, vaccination, and health care strategies. Activities can include but are not limited to: training and deploying navigators and community health workers to do vaccine outreach, patient education, and patient support; navigating access to free and affordable health care; and providing resources and referrals regardless of immigration or documentation status. Applicants who wish to provide community health navigator training are eligible for funding. Priority should be given to organizations that have established community health navigator programs. For example, a navigator may work in communities to offer testing and education. As the navigator develops relationships in the community, they meet a family who needs assistance finding a place to isolate, the navigator would help connect the family to appropriate resources and services.

#### *Other*

Agencies receiving funding are expected to provide reports on information collected. CDPHE will provide reporting details at a later date.

### **Healthy Communities**

#### *Purpose (Response)*

This program will support partners affiliated with, and who provide services to, disproportionately affected populations that are under-resourced and at higher risk for COVID-19 to implement evidence-based programming that addresses social determinants of health and overall well-being of the community. Organizations that do not currently have evidence-based programming are encouraged to implement the [Colorado Resilience Framework](#). Initial efforts should focus on supporting families within marginalized populations and communities who experience a COVID-19 infection, through delivery of wrap-around services to ensure the immediate needs of the family are met (including infection control, support for adequate isolation or quarantine, etc). The secondary focus includes providing services of a similar nature to other families within the community who are experiencing impacts from the pandemic that are indirectly tied to COVID-19 cases in their community (but not necessarily directly in their households). Additionally, community groups funded by these grants may work to disseminate scientifically accurate and effective culturally and linguistically tailored information, and they may facilitate access to health-related services, including implementation of community-based mitigation events (e.g., education, testing, and/or vaccination events).



#### *Funding availability and funding budget/period*

CDPHE anticipates the Healthy Communities Program will have at least \$2.6 million in available funding, with awards ranging between \$20,000 to \$100,000 per year for up to two years.

#### *Funding eligibility*

Applicants must be Colorado-based. Organizations with strong ties to disproportionately affected populations are strongly encouraged to apply. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to:

- Community/grassroots organizations.
- Federally-recognized Native American/Indigenous Tribes in Colorado, and Native American/Indigenous-serving organizations or organizations providing services on Tribal lands with a letter of support from the applicable Tribe.
- Community health centers/rural health centers/safety net clinics/federally qualified health centers.
- Health care organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Transportation providers.
- Social work agencies.
- Health system navigation providers.
- Local and nonprofit public health organizations (except if an agency has already received funding from CDPHE or CDC for the same work. Local public health agencies interested in receiving funds under this program need to demonstrate that other COVID-19 relief funds they have access to do not cover the proposed work).

#### *Intended use*

The goal of this funding is to support activities focused on resilience related to the social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19's impact on communities. Activities include but are not limited to, delivery of wrap-around services to those experiencing impacts from the pandemic (either directly or indirectly tied to COVID-19 cases), as well as infection control, addressing vaccine hesitancy, combating vaccine misinformation, testing, and contact tracing.

#### *Other*

Agencies receiving funding are expected to provide reports on information collected. CDPHE will provide reporting details.

### **Health Equity Immunization Events**

#### *Purpose (Response)*

The goal of activities funded by this program is to improve vaccine education, outreach, access, and administration in communities. This program will also identify and partner with state and local education agencies, where available, to support COVID-19 vaccination education and outreach in the identified community.



### *Funding availability and funding budget/period*

The funding/budget period is approximately March 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. Applicants do not need to submit requests that last the duration of the grant. Health Equity Immunization Events has approximately \$15.3 million available, and CDPHE anticipates to give awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 per year for periods up to two years per awardee.

### *Funding eligibility*

Applicants must be Colorado-based. Organizations with strong ties to disproportionately affected populations are strongly encouraged to apply. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to:

- Community/grassroots organizations.
- Federally-recognized Native American/Indigenous Tribes in Colorado, and Native American/Indigenous-serving organizations or organizations providing services on Tribal lands with a letter of support from the applicable Tribe.
- Community health centers/rural health centers/safety net clinics/federally qualified health centers.
- Health care organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Transportation providers.
- Social work agencies.
- Health system navigation providers.
- Local and nonprofit public health organizations (except local public health agencies that have already received funding from CDPHE or CDC for the same work. Local public health agencies interested in receiving funds under this program need to demonstrate that other COVID-19 relief funds they have access to do not cover the proposed work).
- Regional Accountable Entities.

### *Intended use*

Priority will be given to fund community-based organizations or leaders that the state, territory, and/or local public health agency has existing relationships with, and/or that have established capacity or reach in the community. This funding is intended to support community leaders, coalitions, and local health clinics/centers. It is NOT available to local public health agencies. Funds may be used to cover expenses related to vaccine education, outreach, access, and administration in communities, including but not limited to: personnel, equipment, supplies, communications, incentives, promotional materials, contracts, travel (in-state), and indirect costs.

### *Other*

Agencies receiving funding are expected to provide reports on information collected. CDPHE will provide reporting details at a later date.



## **Definitions**

**Affected population(s):** Specific underrepresented community(ies) that are the focus of this program are defined as Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, African American/Black, Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x), American Indian or Alaska Native; older adults; lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, queer or questioning, gender nonconforming; people living with disabilities; people experiencing homelessness and those living in congregate settings; people with low socioeconomic status; and people who live in rural and/or geographically isolated communities.

**Fiscal sponsorship:** Organizations sometimes enter into formal arrangements with an existing 501(c)(3) known as fiscal sponsorship. Fiscal sponsorship is an alternative to starting a nonprofit or can serve as a temporary status while an organization is waiting to receive nonprofit status. Fiscal sponsorship allows an organization to write/receive grants, fundraise, and conduct business.

**Non-Rural:** For the purposes of these funds, rural vs. non-rural (i.e., urban) status is designated on a county level, using the designations of the Colorado Rural Health Center (our state's official Office of Rural Health). The map of counties by status can be found here:

<https://coruralhealth.org/resources/maps-resource>. Any county that is labeled on the *2021 County Designations Map* as "urban" is considered "non-rural" for the purposes of these funds.

**Rural:** For the purposes of these funds, rural vs. non-rural (i.e., urban) status is designated on a county level, using the designations of the Colorado Rural Health Center (our state's official Office of Rural Health). The map of counties by status can be found here:

<https://coruralhealth.org/resources/maps-resource>. Any county that is labeled on the *2021 County Designations Map* as "rural" or "frontier" is considered "rural" for the purposes of these funds.