



**COOK COUNTY
HEALTH**

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 11, 2020

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Cook County Requests Proposals from Suburban Community-Based Organizations
\$5.4M available for COVID-19 outreach, education, support services and access to testing

COOK COUNTY, IL – As part of its contact tracing initiative, Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), together with the Hektoen Institute of Medicine, released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for community-based organizations (CBOs) serving in suburban Cook County areas most affected by COVID-19. As much as \$5.4M in funds will be awarded to provide contact tracing outreach, education, support services and access to testing, beginning in December.

“It is sobering to think that 19 years ago today, almost 3,000 Americans lost their lives on 9/11,” said CCDPH Co-Lead and Senior Medical Officer Dr. Rachel Rubin. “At that time, we could not imagine anything more devastating. But now, we have lost almost 200,000 Americans to COVID-19, and it is predicted another 200,000 people could die by year’s end, if we don’t act now to slow the spread.”

The *Suburban Cook County COVID-19 Contact Tracing Community Supports Program* aims to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 and lessen its impacts, through:

- Education and outreach to priority communities and populations;
- Expansion of existing programs and services that can help households isolate and quarantine, or address social and economic challenges; and
- Increased availability and access to testing.

“This effort is designed to provide grassroots education and support by organizations already embedded in and trusted by the communities they serve. As such, we are particularly interested in funding organizations that have successfully provided programming driven by community voice,” said Dr. Kiran Joshi, CCDPH Co-Lead and Senior Medical Officer.

Cook County Health has contracted with the Hektoen Institute of Medicine to collect, review and score applications and award the grants. The Hektoen Institute of Medicine is a nonprofit health service and research organization that administers grant awards on behalf of community organizations, independent investigators, and institutions working to improve care and resources for the underserved.

“We are very excited to announce this RFP and even more excited to see how CBOs showcase their ideas and abilities to reach, collaborate and engage with the communities and populations most adversely affected by COVID-19,” said Hektoen President, Dr. George Dunea.

All 501(c)(3) not-for-profit CBOs that can demonstrate service delivery to priority populations and/or community areas in suburban Cook County (excluding Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie and Stickney Township, which are outside CCDPH’s jurisdiction) are eligible to apply.

Priority populations include, but are not limited to: racial and ethnic minorities, foreign-born individuals, people with limited English proficiency, undocumented immigrants, people living close to or below the federal poverty line, justice-involved individuals, disconnected youth, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities (including deaf and hard of hearing), people who identify as LGBTQ, and older adults.

An information session will be held via Zoom on Sept. 16 at 9:30 a.m. A Letter of Intent (LOI) is strongly encouraged by Sept. 21. The application deadline is October 2, 2020. For more information and to apply, visit the Hektoen website at <https://www.hektoen.org/covid-19-community-supports/>. Questions may be directed to Hektoen via email to: CBORFP@hektoen.org.

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Press Availability

Today, Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Cook County Department of Public Health Co-Leads and Senior Medical Officers Drs. Rachel Rubin and Kiran Joshi, and Hektoen Institute of Medicine Associate Administrator Mariela Romo and Pre-Award Grant Manager Rebecca Galvan will be available to respond to media inquiries via WebEx video and audio conference call.

Meeting number (access code): 133 432 8300

Meeting password: T6qDJNyHn86

Options for joining include:

- Join by phone: +1-415-655-0001 US Toll
- Join from a video system or application: Dial [1334328300@cookcountyhhs.webex.com](tel:1334328300)
You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.
- Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business
Dial [1334328300.cookcountyhhs@lync.webex.com](tel:1334328300)