



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

11.7.22

This resource has been prepared by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) to provide answers to questions posed about the Behavioral Health Initiative grant opportunity. Questions have been consolidated and adapted for clarity, and questions pertaining to specific proposed programs ideas are not included. Additional questions will be added to the document up until Wednesday, November 30th. If you have a question that is not covered by the Application Guide or this FAQ document, you may email BuildingHealthyCommunitiesOpenCall@cookcountyhhs.org. Please note that you may not receive a response, as we are unable to answer program-specific questions.

Category	Question	Response
Application Portal	Are we using the same grant portal as the last CCDPH application?	No, please go to BHCopencall.com and apply there.
	Are there character/word limits for the narrative sections?	For narrative sections, there is a 4,000-character limit.
Capacity Building Meetings	Will the information session slide deck and recording be shared?	Yes, recordings and slide decks from the information sessions and workshops will be posted on BHCopencall.com .
Eligibility – Org Type/ Service Line	Are Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) that are part of a larger health system eligible to submit for the Mental Health and/or Youth Dev strategy?	Yes, if the center is a registered 501(c)(3) at the time of submission.
	As a skilled home health agency serving mental health patients, are we eligible for this?	Yes, if the agency is a registered 501(c)(3) at the time of submission.
	Are institutions of higher education eligible to apply?	Higher education institutions are eligible to apply provided they maintain 501(c)3 status.
	Are hospitals that are 501(c)(3)s eligible to apply for this grant?	Yes, if the hospital is a registered 501(c)(3) at the time of submission.
	Does the community partner have to be a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and be GATA certified? Or if the entity is in the process of attaining not-for-profit status at the time of application, is this sufficient?	Lead applicants must already have 501(c)(3) status at the time of application.



Category	Question	Response
Eligibility – Org Type/ Service Line <i>(continued)</i>	What are the minimum requirements an education agency must meet to apply for the grant?	Education agencies must have 501(c)(3) status at the time of application submission and proposals can only serve residents of suburban Cook County excluding Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.
	Can for-profit CBOs apply?	No, though for-profit organizations can be partners to lead applicants that are 501(c)(3) organizations. We value the work that all community-based organizations are doing, but for-profit organizations cannot be lead applicants for this grant opportunity.
	Are General Psychiatry Training Programs eligible to apply?	Please review the open call full details document for a list of eligible and ineligible expenses.
	Can organization that applied to the previous ARPA funded Building Healthy Communities grant apply to this opportunity?	Yes, previous Building Healthy Communities grant applicants and recipients may apply for this funding opportunity. Applicants are responsible for coordinating funding from multiple sources. Awards from multiple sources may be used to support your program, but awardees must be able to delineate which grants are being used to cover which expenses. As part of their application, these organizations should clearly define how the scope of work for this Open Call differs from the scope of work covered by previous funding.
	Curious if having received American Rescue Plan funds through other local agencies precludes us from applying?	Organizations that have previously received American Rescue Plan Act funding, as well as other government funding, are eligible to apply.
Eligibility – Partnerships	Can a 501(c)(3) entity have a for-profit entity as a partner as part of the program design?	Yes, organizations that are not 501(c)(3)s may partner with an eligible organization that serves as the lead applicant.
	Can two non-profits 501(c)3 partner as one entity with a wider range of expertise apply as one with one leading and primary organization?	Yes, we encourage collaborations. Please note that the lead applicant must be a 501(c)(3) or other eligible organization at the time of submission.



Category	Question	Response
Eligibility – Partnerships <i>(continued)</i>	If an organization is part of a collaborative application under one strategy, can they also submit a separate application for a different project within the same strategy?	Yes, if each organization only serves as the lead applicant for one application per strategy. An organization can serve as a partner on one application and the lead applicant on a separate application under the same strategy.
Eligibility – Geographic Scope/ Population	Want to be 100% sure that an Oak Park based 501(c)(3) can apply for funding used to served other suburban residents (outside of Oak Park)?	An Oak Park based 501(c)(3) can apply for funding to serve suburban Cook County residents who do not reside in Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.
	If we're based in a Chicago office but we do a lot of work in suburban Cook County, are we eligible?	Yes, but only work impacting suburban Cook County residents, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township, will be eligible for this funding.
	Would we be eligible if we are in the city but providing telehealth and in-person services for clients who live in suburban Cook County?	Yes, if this grant is only used to fund services for suburban Cook County residents, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.
	Could we still apply for funding to support non-Oak Park residents at an Oak Park located program?	Yes, if programs and services funded by these grants only go to suburban Cook County residents, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.
	Can a project occur outside suburban Cook County to the extent that it is not funded through this grant program? In other words, can an award partially fund a project that will only partially occur in suburban Cook County?	Yes, if the funding from this grant goes only to suburban Cook County residents, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township, and the work plan clearly indicates what scope will be covered by this grant.
	Can organizations that do not operate in one of the 35 priority communities listed apply if they do serve suburban Cook County residents?	Yes, if the funding from this grant goes only to suburban Cook County residents, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township, and the work plan clearly indicates how services will be limited to eligible residents.



Category	Question	Response
Eligibility – Geographic Scope/ Population (continued)	Could this grant be used to fund programming for police officers on mental health and suicide recognition/prevention? The officers work within the grant jurisdiction, but some live outside of it.	All grant applicants should describe how their program will serve eligible residents as part of their Proposal Description. Proposals for employee programming should explain how that programming will impact eligible residents. This grant funding can only be used to serve residents of suburban Cook County, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.
	Can project apply that doesn't serve any of the listed priority communities?	Yes, if your work affects other areas of suburban Cook County excluding Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township, you may apply and highlight the need for that area in your application.
	Is this grant solely for suburban Cook County, not the entire Cook County population?	Yes, this grant can only serve residents of suburban Cook County, excluding Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township.
	Are subset populations eligible?	Yes, organizations serving subset populations of suburban Cook County may apply.
	Can non-south Cook agencies apply?	Eligible non-south Cook agencies may apply, but only work serving suburban Cook County residents, excluding residents of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie, and Stickney Township, will be eligible for funding.
	Are Elk Grove and Wheeling in suburban Cook County?	Yes, services for residents in these areas are eligible.



Category	Question	Response
Grant Application – Timeline/ Project Period (Dates)	Can you more clearly define the 4-year project period?	We expect the awards to be announced the week of January 16, 2023. Awardees then will work with the Building Healthy Communities Behavioral Health Initiative team to solidify their scope(s) of work and budget(s) for agreements and complete the Cook County Risk Assessment and supporting materials. Awards of \$1,000,000 or more will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval in February 2023. We expect agreements to proceed and be executed, and for the project period to begin in March of 2023. The first year will be slightly shorter, spanning March – November 30, 2023. Subsequent years will be December 1 – November 30 to align with the County’s fiscal year. Programs will end by November 30, 2026.
	What is the program period over 4 years?	We expect the program period to be from March 1, 2023, to November 30, 2026.
Grant Application – Outcomes	Are there outcome measurements including in the grant offering application, are there other key outcomes that are required to fulfill?	Yes, please see pages 16 and 17 of the open call full details for the deliverables and metrics.
Grant Application – Budget	So, how do we identify Year 1 and so on for budgeting purposes?	Provided the program launches as planned, year one will be from March 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023. Subsequent years will be from December 1 – November 30.
	Will funding be reimbursement based?	No, it is not a reimbursement grant. Awardees can receive an advancement between 25% to 50% of the estimated budget per fiscal year, multiple times a year.



Category	Question	Response
Grant Application – Budget <i>(continued)</i>	Can funds be used on capital expenses?	Funds from this grant cannot be used for the purchase or improvement of land or purchase, improvement, or construction of a building. Please see the open call full details document for a list of eligible and ineligible expenses.
	Do organizations need to plan reserves for a 45-day-payments?	Organizations should plan for 4-week payments.
	Can the funds be requested for three years only as we will be self-sustaining after that?	Yes, requests for funding that ends before November 30, 2026, can be made.
Grant Application – Opioid-involved Overdose Prevention specific	In terms of mobile services, are you considering funding for mobile services that provide medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder as well as distribution of naloxone?	Funding for this opportunity can support operation and maintenance of the mobile unit but cannot pay for MOUD services themselves. However, this does not mean MOUD services cannot be provided on the mobile unit, just that this funding cannot be used to pay for them.
	Would the funding for the opioid project count towards providing the mobile vehicle?	Yes, purchase and maintenance of a mobile vehicle are eligible expenses for this funding opportunity.
	Are syringes required for the opioid overdose strategy?	Syringes are an allowable expense but are not required.
	Can a program provide services that focus on both substance use and HIV?	Yes, but the primary focus of projects under this strategy must be overdose prevention. HIV testing can be a supplemental and complementary component, but it cannot be the only intervention or sole focus of the project.
	How many grants will be awarded?	We expect to award three grants for the Opioid-involved Overdose Prevention strategy.
Grant Application – Mental Health and Positive Youth Development specific	What is the difference between Track One and Track Two programming?	There are no programmatic differences between Track 1 and Track 2. The only differences are monetary, with Track 1 awarding up to a total of \$250,000 over four years and Track 2 awarding up to a total of \$1,000,000 over four years.



Category	Question	Response
Grant Application – Mental Health and Positive Youth Development specific <i>(continued)</i>	How do you identify Track One & Track Two?	Applicants will identify Track 1 and Track 2 in the Project Overview and Key Application Priorities Section of the application.
	Is the only difference how much you are requesting or are there programmatic requirements attached to the separate tracks?	The only difference between Track 1 and Track 2, is the amount of funding. There are no programmatic differences between the tracks.
	How many grants will be awarded for the Mental Health and Positive Youth Development strategies?	We expect to award 15-20 grants total between the Mental Health and Positive Youth Development strategies. The exact number will depend on the number of applications received and the amounts requested.
	Could this funding be used to maintain programming for youth and families already enrolled in our services, or does every youth we project to impact have to be a new participant?	This grant funding can be used to maintain existing programming, including existing participants.
	We run three different youth development programs. When submitting the application for funding, should we choose one program, or can we put all three programs on the application?	Multiple activities can be submitted and funded under the same application. However, each application for the Mental Health and Positive Youth Development strategies can only receive up to either \$250,000 total over four years for Track One or \$1,000,000 total over four years for Track Two.
	What are the ages for the youth development strategy?	Youth for the Positive Youth Development strategy refers to residents aged 0 – 24.