



Because your ZIP code shouldn't be
more important than your genetic code

Request for Proposals for Texas Health Community Impact 2023-2024 Grant Cycle

An Initiative of



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Background

Texas Health Resources has a long history of caring for those in need. In keeping with our mission to improve health of the people in the communities we serve, we work closely with community leaders and stakeholders to identify and address health disparities and the socioeconomic conditions that affect overall health. Across North Texas, significant differences in life expectancy and health outcomes exist from ZIP code to ZIP code. Where you live can have a bigger impact on your health than your genetic makeup. Access to healthcare and improving the quality of life can go a long way in improving the health of the community.

Through the Texas Health Community Impact (THCI) program, Texas Health is making available \$8 million in grants for 2023-2024 to North Texas organizations that are committed to improving the health of the people in the communities we serve. A portion of this funding (\$1.5 million) is available in partnership with the Communities Foundation of Texas' W. W. Caruth, Jr. Fund.

Requirement

THCI is seeking proposals from cross-sector collaborations that will use upstream approaches to address priority topics for the respective Texas Health regions their organizations serve. Upstream approaches seek to reduce health inequities by focusing on factors that impact health such as the role of stress, adverse childhood experiences, poverty, education, and social policies. The focus of these collaboratives should be to implement innovative solutions that reduce the negative impacts of social determinants of health and prioritize health equity. The goal of collaborations, according to the National Network for Collaboration, is "to bring individuals, agencies, organizations and community members themselves together in an atmosphere of support to systematically solve existing and emerging problems that could not be easily solved by one group alone" (<https://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/pass/learning-circles/five/LearningCircleFiveResources.pdf>).

THCI expects collaborators to integrate services between the lead applicant and collaborating organizations and support innovative solutions that build connections between agencies to eliminate gaps in community services. For example, sending referrals from a mental health organization to a food pantry is not a strong proposal. Incorporating mental health screening and services into a food pantry would score higher than a simple referral program.

For THCI, collaboratives must designate an organization to submit the proposal and serve as the lead. The lead organization may be a city or county government agency, federally recognized tribal leader, non-governmental organization, academic institution, or other organization, as defined above, that can effectively engage with all the relevant collaborative organizations and is able to receive and disburse grant funding on behalf of the collaborative.

Proposed solutions should align with these Texas Health Community Health Improvement guiding principles:

- View our communities through a health equity lens
- Use data to target underserved populations
- Meet people where they live, work, play, and pray
- Facilitate care for the whole person
- Innovate

The Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) defines public health innovation as the development and/or implementation of a novel process, policy, product, or program leading to improvements that impact health and equity. Please visit the PHNCI website for more information:

<https://phnci.org/>



Dallas/Rockwall Regional Strategy

Based on the available data from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the feasibility of making meaningful impact, Texas Health Community Impact (THCI) Dallas/Rockwall Leadership Council is requesting proposals from community-based organizations (CBOs) to address social determinant of health issues by improving the economic stability of low-income individuals with the objective of reducing barriers to health access and to prevent negative effects on behavioral health and chronic disease.

Scope of Work

THCI Dallas/Rockwall Leadership Council seeks to support collaborative initiatives that address economic instability which has been linked to increased symptoms of depression and anxiety, increased consumption of alcohol and addictive substances, and poor cardiovascular outcomes.

Project Goal: Apply a health and wellness lens to programs that aim to improve health outcomes using enhanced coaching strategies.

Project Objective: Invest in an evidence-informed research initiative that enhances financial coaching practices by incorporating a life coaching model, with a focus on addressing the needs, values, and priorities of low-income individuals at risk for behavioral health and/or chronic diseases.

Applicants must:

- Design and implement interventions that aim to enhance the well-being and personal functioning of individuals by helping them explore and prioritize options, anticipate and manage stumbling blocks, and make decisions that affect their health.
- Employ approaches that build upon existing financial and/or life coaching programs to include a health and wellness component.
- Use an evidence-informed research design to clearly delineate primary outcomes anticipated as per the proposed project activities and evaluate the impact of the project.
- Represent a collaborative partnership with a lead agency identified as the responsible agency for implementation and management of the grant initiative.
- Prioritize establishing partnerships with local organizations to expand upon existing efforts and leverage resources available to their local community.

Expectations

- Proposed projects must target at least two of the mandatory ZIP code areas with priority given to Dallas County areas where the need is greater:
 - West Dallas (75211/75212)
 - Southern Dallas (75227/75217)
 - Vickery Meadow (75231/75243)
 - South Rockwall (75032)
 - Royse City (75189)
- Under one project, collaborative partners will:
 - Develop and implement programming rooted in effective coaching methods for addressing health concerns through economic stability practices.
 - Incorporate a solid research design and a rigorous evaluation plan to collect evidence of impact and serve as many low-income community members as feasible within the scope of the requested funding.
 - Administer regular program efforts to identify and support individuals to address as many health-related life goals as possible.
 - Identify and activate action steps over the project period to support sustainability and maintain successful aspects of the collaborative partnership.

Funding

THCI will fund awards under this scope of work for a period of up to two years. The total amount available for the Dallas and Rockwall Region is up to **\$700,000**. The amount of funding requested should be commensurate with the project scope and level of effort of proposed services. The final award amount is contingent upon submission of a detailed and reasonable budget proposal and workplan and may vary based on approval by THCI Dallas/Rockwall Leadership Council.

Award increments will be based on 6-month budget periods unless otherwise approved, and is contingent upon satisfactory progress. No matching or cost sharing required.

Eligibility

The following is a non-exclusive list of potential lead organizations that may be eligible to apply:

- State, county, city, or township governments
- Independent school districts
- Public, private nonprofit, or state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Community and faith-based groups
- Public housing authorities
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS
- Hospital systems can be a part of a collaboration but cannot serve as the lead applicant

Preferred Experience

- Experience in providing evidence-based, innovative, and tailored strategies addressing the health and health-related needs of priority populations. Specific expertise working with communities facing long-standing systemic health and social inequities.
- Prior experience developing program materials, methods, influencers, messengers, and tools in health communications about health equity.
- Experience working with diverse communities to improve economic, social, physical, and emotional wellbeing including that of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).
- Capacity to accomplish proposed activities in a timely manner and within a reasonable budget scope.

Lead organizations' annual operating budgets will be taken into consideration. Preference will be given to collaborators partnered with local organizations with a history in the target communities. Organizations that applied for previous THCI grants and were not awarded are eligible to apply. Organizations that received funding in the previous two grant cycles are not eligible for funding as a lead agency without prior approval from Texas Health. For further details, please contact your grant program manager.

Funding Exclusions

Grant recipients may not use funds for:

- Indirect costs greater than 15%
- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Capital expenses, construction projects, and purchase of large equipment
- Fundraising activities or event sponsorships
- Direct delivery of reimbursable health care services
- Grants or scholarships to individuals
- Advertising reimbursement of pre-award costs
- Lobbying activities including, but not limited to:
 - Publicity or propaganda purposes
 - Preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body

Expectations of Applicants

Collaboratives may choose to work in one or more ZIP codes within a region and/or across multiple regions but must adequately respond to the strategic priorities of the respective regions. Lead organizations are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed project or program will promote community engagement and significantly improve health outcomes for participants. Responses to this RFP should focus on innovative solutions to health equity issues that have not been addressed sufficiently or at all, and must be well-explained, with a detailed implementation plan, proposed outcome measures and a corresponding budget justification.

- Funded programs are expected to operate for a two-year period beginning January 2023 and ending December 2024.
- Programs will be assessed through quarterly reporting.
- Continuation of program funding will depend on satisfactory progress and availability of funds for the strategic priority(ies) being addressed.
- A lead organization must be designated as the responsible party for convening, holding accountable, and managing financial allocations to collaborative organizations.

Engagement in Technical Assistance and Learning Opportunities: Collaboratives should expect to meet monthly with their assigned Texas Health liaison and actively engage in THCI's Learning Collaborative, by participating in quarterly virtual sessions and attending an annual in-person meeting. The lead organization is expected to host at least one site visit with participants including but not limited to THCI staff and collaborative organizations. THCI Leadership Council members and board members may attend as appropriate.

Project Implementation: Satisfactory progress must occur within the first two quarters of program implementation. Preliminary outcomes as proposed in the implementation plan should be achieved by the end of Year 1, and a foundation for Year 2 programming established. Any proposed changes of scope must be submitted to the Texas Health liaison for approval in a timely manner.

Proposal Requirements

All proposals must be submitted through <https://tinyurl.com/THCIGrants>. Late submissions will not be accepted. The lead organization is responsible for submitting the proposal for the collaborative.

2023-2024 Grant Cycle Proposal Timeline

Date(s)	Activity	Details
July 15, 2022	RFP Released	Proposals accepted on the Texas Health Resources Grants e-Portal at https://tinyurl.com/THCIGrants .
September 16, 2022	Submission Deadline	The submission period will close at 4 p.m. CDT on September 16, 2022 . Proposals should be submitted by the designated lead organization. Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline. Applicants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the proposal portal to avoid missing the deadline. Questions received before 4pm on August 19, 2022, will be responded to in a timely manner.
September 16, 2022 - October 16, 2022	Review Process	All submissions will be reviewed, and applicants may be asked to respond to clarifying questions about their proposals and/or present their proposal to the THCI Dallas/Rockwall Leadership Council.
November 30, 2022	Grant Award and Onboarding	Notification of grant awards is expected to occur no later than November 30, 2022. Recipients of grant awards will be required to attend an onboarding webinar and 1:1 call with their assigned program manager.

Proposals must offer clear and concise responses to the following questions:

- 1. Quick Pitch (150 word maximum)**
 - a. In a few sentences, describe what your collaborative is planning to do.
 - b. How does your project align with the program goal and objective?
- 2. Community Background and Priorities (350 word maximum)**
 - a. Provide a clear description of the target population, specifying who will benefit and how.
 - b. Explain why the community(ies) you've targeted need the proposed project.
 - c. Explain why your proposal is responsive to the priorities identified for the region(s) served.
 - d. Describe how your organization is positioned to serve the target area(s).
- 3. Proposed Project (2,500 word maximum)**
 - a. What is your proposed intervention? Provide a detailed implementation plan and explain how the proposed plan will impact the target population(s). Discuss recruitment and engagement.
 - b. Outline the goals and objectives of your project, and identify the primary outcomes expected through implementation of the research design. Clearly specify which tools and methods you will use to achieve the expected outcomes.
 - c. Explain how you will evaluate the proposed project (include your plan to collect performance and outcome measures).
 - d. Describe how your proposed project meets the definition of public health innovation (refer to the PHNCI definition on page 2).
- 4. Organizational Capacity and Leadership Qualifications (500 word maximum)**

As the lead organization, describe your capacity to lead a collaborative.

 - a. Explain the role and responsibilities of each partner in this collaborative.
 - b. What actions will you take to ensure collaborative members are responsive and working effectively towards common goals?
 - c. Explain why your organization is poised to be the lead and how you will handle administrative responsibilities (e.g., financial management, project oversight, support with meeting deadlines).
 - d. Has your organization served as a lead in another collaborative? If so, describe at least one prior experience and which lessons learned you will apply to this collaborative.
 - e. Describe the means and frequency of planned communications with collaborative partners.
- 5. Key Personnel (200 word maximum)**

Key personnel are individuals who are essential to implementing and carrying out the responsibilities of a project. Key personnel roles may include design, implementation, finance, data management. For the collaborative, explain which individuals are key personnel. This information may be included in a chart.

 - a. Indicate the time commitment (as % of time) for each individual
 - b. Responsibilities in the collaborative
 - c. Qualifications and experience related to the role
 - d. Organization represented
 - e. Cost associated with the position (if any)
- 6. Measures and Impact (1,000 word maximum)**
 - a. State the overall goal(s) of this proposal using the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) goal format.
 - b. Provide proposed outcomes and outputs for each goal and explain how they will be measured, and the quantifiable timeframes for achievement.
 - c. Describe how your collaborative will assemble the results of its collective work. Specify the methods you plan to use to monitor your progress.
 - d. Indicate how you will communicate progress on your project.

7. Feasibility and Sustainability (500 word maximum)

- a. Discuss the feasibility of your proposal in terms of collaborator experience, capacity, and alignment with existing work.
- b. Describe how you will sustain project efforts.

Attachments:

- Complete the [Budget Template](#).
- Letters of Commitment from each of the collaborative partners stating the organization's contribution, role, and primary responsibilities.

Responsiveness

Applications meeting the responsiveness criteria will improve the economic stability of low-income individuals with the objective of reducing barriers to health access and to prevent negative effects on behavioral health and chronic disease.

Proposal responsiveness will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. **Need/Opportunity Aligns with Priorities and Collaborative (15%):** Clear alignment with community needs and THCI priorities. Demonstrated engagement of diverse capable partners in the project plan.
2. **Potential for Impact (35%):** Clear SMART goals outlining expected outputs, outcomes, and overall impact of the programs on the community(ies) served.
3. **Innovation (25%):** Use of innovative or novel practices and approaches as defined by the PHNCI.
4. **Soundness of Project (25%):** Strong, realistic implementation plan, targets, and timeline. Clear vision for how goals and outcomes will be achieved. Demonstrated capacity to launch proposed activities successfully within four months of an executed grant agreement. Evidence of appropriate staffing, partnerships, and budget.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Questions regarding this RFP will be accepted via email to THCI-Grants@TexasHealth.org until **4 p.m. CDT on Friday, August 19, 2022**. Please use the email subject line “*THCI RFP Questions*” and indicate which region(s) you are inquiring about..
- Submitted questions and corresponding answers will be posted on the Texas Health Community Health Improvement website **each Wednesday between July 15 and August 24**: <https://www.texashealth.org/Community-Health/Community-Impact/2021-RFP-and-Application-FAQs>.
- Texas Health will post an informational webinar on **July 15, 2022**. The recording will serve as an overview of the application process for the 2023-2024 THCI RFP and assist with familiarizing organizations with the requirements of the RFP.
- Each Region will host a live Question and Answer Session **the week of July 25, 2022**, to answer questions specific to each region. These recordings will be posted on the web **after August 1, 2022**.

Right to Reject

Texas Health reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals submitted.
- Request additional information from any or all applicant organizations.
- At their sole discretion, conduct discussions with any applicant organization to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to the RFP requirements.

Applicant organizations will not be reimbursed for the cost of developing or presenting a proposal in response to this RFP. For administrative purposes, proposals must be submitted through Texas Health's intake system. Submission of the proposal does not constitute an obligation to fund. All proposals will be reviewed, and finalists determined solely as described in this RFP.