



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

# **Request for Proposals for Texas Health Community Impact Tarrant-Parker Region 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 toward improving the health of the community.

Through the Texas Health Community Impact (THCI) program, Texas Health is making available \$8 million in grant funding 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>).

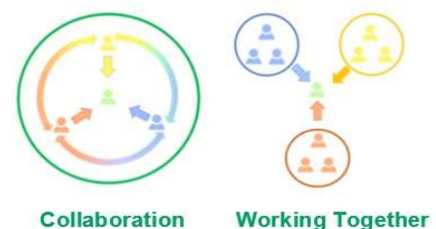
THCI expects collaborators to integrate services between the lead applicant and collaborating organizations and support innovative solutions that build connections between agencies to eliminate gaps in community services. For example, sending referrals from a mental health organization to a food pantry 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. For more information, please visit the PHNCI website: <https://phnci.org/>



**Ideal collaboration creates a seamless transition from one organization to another, keeping the consumer at the center of the relationship.**

**Organizations that simply work together cannot create a truly seamless transition from one organization to the next.**



# Tarrant-Parker Regional Strategy

## Priority Topics:

Tarrant County		
<i>Arlington</i> <i>Fort Worth</i>	76010, 76011 76104, 76105, 76119	Access to services addressing Social Determinants of Health for adults with chronic disease, specifically diabetes and/or high blood pressure
Parker County		
<i>Springtown</i>	76082	Access to services addressing Social Determinants of Health for adults and access to healthy foods

## Tarrant County Target ZIP Codes Information

### **Fort Worth:**

Fort Worth is an urban, inner city with 892,221 residents and high crime rates. Hispanic/Latino (35%) and Black/African American (18%) are the two largest ethnic/racial groups. THCI is targeting three ZIP codes – 76104, 76105, and 76119. Alarming, per capita income for residents of 76105 and 76119 is less than half that of the state and DFW Metro averages. Residents also face many health concerns including diabetes, high blood pressure, and depression, all issues prevalent in minority populations. Poor health is affecting overall life expectancy for residents. For example, life expectancy in ZIP code 76104 is 62.8 years compared to 77.5 years for the City of Fort Worth.

Extremely high prevalence of high blood pressure and diabetes among residents of these target ZIP codes is considered a contributing factor. In fact, high blood pressure prevalence is as much as 60% higher than the City of Fort Worth's rate of 30.6% with rates ranging from 43% to 49.5%. Diabetes prevalence is double that of the City of Fort Worth's rate of 11.3% in all three of these ZIP codes ranging from 20-23% of the population. Food insecurity is another issue plaguing Fort Worth residents, as portions of 76104 and 76119 are considered food deserts with limited access to healthy foods.

### **Arlington:**

Arlington is a suburban city with a growing population of Hispanic/Latino residents. THCI is targeting two ZIP codes — 76010 and 76011. Per capita income for residents in 76010 is \$16,228 and \$24,839 in 76011, both significantly below DFW Metro and Texas averages of \$36,368 and \$32,177, respectively.

Health disparities in these ZIP codes include frequent mental distress, high blood pressure, and obesity, particularly in 76010 where 46% of residents are considered obese. Almost 36% of residents in both target ZIP codes have high blood pressure compared to the city's rate of 30%. Diabetes prevalence in both ZIP codes is one and a half times the city's rate of 10.3% with a rate of 15.2% in 76010 and 16.2% in 76011. Further, Arlington is the largest U.S. city without mass transit and a portion of 76010 is considered a food desert with limited access to healthy foods. As expected, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these issues.

## Parker County Target ZIP Code Information

Parker County is a rural community west of Tarrant County with limited resources and no public transportation. Springtown ZIP code 76082 has a population of 21,151. One in three adults is age 50 or older, and 8.8% of the population has veteran status. Medicare population is 18.8%, which is higher than the state average of 12.8%. Per capita income is \$27,583, which is lower than both the state and DFW metro area averages and the food insecurity rate for residents is 15.8%, compared to 13% for Tarrant County, making access to healthy foods a priority.

Access to care is the biggest issue affecting Springtown residents. The ratio of residents to primary care providers in Springtown is 2,850 residents to 1 primary care provider compared to 1,660 people to 1 provider statewide, about 70% higher for Springtown residents. Mental health providers are in even greater demand with the ratio of Springtown residents to providers being 1,670 residents to 1 mental health provider compared to 760 people to 1 provider statewide, more than double.

## Goals and Objectives:

In **Tarrant County**, the strategic priority is to improve quality of life and maximize the impact of initiatives addressing chronic conditions, access to care, and access to healthy foods through a continuum of care approach targeting low-income communities.

- **Program Goal 1:** *Improve quality of life in low-income adults 18+ living with chronic disease by increasing services such as dental/eye care, healthy foods, mental health services, job training, or transportation in target ZIP codes by December 2024.*

**And / Or**

- **Program Goal 2:** *Improve health outcomes of low-income adults 18+ living with chronic disease, specifically diabetes and/or high blood pressure, in target ZIP codes by December 2024.*

In **Parker County**, the strategic priority is to maximize the impact of initiatives addressing access to care, and healthy foods through a continuum of care approach targeting low-income communities.

- **Program Goal 3:** *Improve health outcomes by increasing access to services addressing social determinants of health such as dental health, primary care, transportation, counseling, and/or healthy foods.*
  - **Program Objective 3a:** Improve quality of life as evidenced by a standardized tool among low-income adults age 18+ in Springtown (76082) by December 2024.
  - **Program Objective 3b:** Increase access to healthy foods as evidenced by standardized tool among low-income adults age 18+ in Springtown (76082) by December 2024.

Total funding available for the Tarrant-Parker region is **\$2,000,000.00** to address the identified needs through collaborative and innovative programs in all designated areas – Fort Worth, Arlington, and Springtown. Lead applicants may apply for the full amount and address all goals/objectives across all areas or may apply for and address goals/objectives in one or more of the areas.

## 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 or state-controlled institutions of higher education
- 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. Collaborative organizations must designate a lead organization to submit the proposal on their behalf.

**Proposals must provide clear and concise responses to the following questions:**

1. **Quick Pitch (150 word maximum)**
  - a. What is your collaborative poised to do if selected as a THCI grant awardee?
  - b. How are these efforts helping to reduce the negative impact of social determinants of health?

## 2. Community Background and Priorities (350 word maximum)

- a. Provide information about local needs and other relevant data points to help reviewers understand why your collaboration selected this community or geographic area, and exactly who will benefit from your efforts.
- b. Provide historical, systemic, and community context for the key needs, barriers, and challenges your collaborative aims to address, and explain why your proposal is responsive to the priorities identified for the region(s) served.

## 3. Proposed Project (2,500 word maximum)

- a. Describe how your proposed project meets the definition of public health innovation (refer to the PHNCI definition on page 2).
- b. Provide a detailed implementation plan and explain how the proposed plan will impact the identified priorities for the region(s) in which you are applying.
- c. Describe key activities your collaborative has already implemented to address health equity. If your collaborative is just beginning its work, what is your vision?
- d. What lessons learned from those activities will be applied to this project? Explain the role and responsibilities of each partner in this collaborative.

## 4. Organizational Capacity and Leadership Qualifications (500 word maximum)

- a. As the lead organization, describe your capacity to lead a collaborative by answering the following questions:
  - i. What actions will you take to ensure collaborative members are responsive and working effectively towards common goals?
  - ii. Has your organization served as a lead in another collaborative? Describe at least one prior experience.
  - iii. What resources are in place to support the administrative responsibilities of the lead organization (e.g., financial management, project oversight, support with meeting deadlines, etc.)
  - iv. Describe the means and frequency with which you plan to communicate with collaborative partners.

## 5. Key Personnel (200 word maximum)

- a. 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, indicate time commitment (as % of time) for each individual, their responsibilities in the collaborative, their qualifications and experience related to the role, the organization they represent, and if the position has an associated cost. Describe how your organization's policies and practices help promote cultural competency and understanding among its leaders and front-line staff.

## 6. Measures and Impact (1,000 word maximum)

- a. State the 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.
- c. Describe how your collaborative will assemble the results of its collective work. Specify the methods you plan to use to measure your progress. Describe how you will communicate that data to the independent evaluator.
- d. Indicate which communication channels you will use to build awareness and share progress on your programmatic activities.

## 7. Feasibility and Sustainability (250 word maximum)

- a. Discuss the feasibility of your proposal in terms of collaborators' capacity, community support, and engagement.
- b. Describe how you will develop sustainability for your program after the grant period is complete.
- c. Complete the [Workplan and Budget Template](#).

*In addition, please include the following items:*

- **List of all the collaborative organizations and the primary contact information for each.**
- **Letters of Commitment** from each of the collaborative organizations. Letters must offer original responses to the following questions (templated letters are not acceptable):
  - What is the organization's contribution, role, and primary responsibilities?
  - How will the organization participate in the planning and implementation of the proposed project?
  - How will the collaborative organization contribute to measuring the project's progress?

### 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 <a href="https://tinyurl.com/THCIGrants">https://tinyurl.com/THCIGrants</a> .
September 16, 2022	Submission Deadline	The submission period will close at <b>4 p.m. CDT on September 16, 2022</b> . 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 e-Portal (link above) to avoid missing the deadline. <b>Questions received before 4pm on August 19, 2022, will be responded to in a timely manner.</b>
September 16, 2022 - October 10, 2022	Review Process	All submissions will be reviewed, and applicants may be asked to respond to clarifying questions about their proposals.
October 14, 2022	Finalist Presentations	Selected organizations will be invited to present to the THCI Tarrant-Parker Leadership Council for discussion and selection of awardees.
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 liaison.

## Responsiveness

Priority consideration will be given to proposals that address social determinants of health and improve health equity for North Texans. Recognizing that some communities may be just starting on the path to finding new ways to collaborate, we will consider collaboratives with limited tangible community impact to date, but with a clear vision and goals.

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. Note: A broad focus or an unclear connection to the region's priorities and inexperienced partners will not score highly.

## 2. Potential for Impact (35%)

**Tarrant County** grant recipients (Arlington and/or Fort Worth) should demonstrate the effectiveness of comprehensive program referral and navigation services increasing access to improve quality of life for those at risk for, or living with, chronic conditions.

- Sample outcome: 10% increase in quality of life as measured by the Quality-of-Life Survey by December 2024.
- Sample outcome: 75% of enrolled individuals have biometric scores under control (blood pressure under 140/90 and A1C under 8 for participants with diabetes) by December 2024.

**Parker County** grant recipients should demonstrate the effectiveness of comprehensive program referral and navigation improving quality of life and removing barriers/improving access to health care (such as using telehealth services) and healthy foods among low-income adults.

- Sample outcome: 10% increase in quality of life as measured by the Quality-of-Life Survey by December 2024
- Sample outcome: 10% improvement in food security of enrolled individuals by December 2024.

## 3. Innovation (25%)

Use of innovative or novel practices and approaches as defined by the PHNCI. Note: Proposals seeking to continue or simply expand existing services without any defined innovation will not score well.

## 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](mailto: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, 2022**: <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 proposal process for the 2023-2024 THCI RFP and assist with familiarizing organizations with the requirements of the RFP.
- Tarrant-Parker Region will host a Q&A webinar **on July 27, 2022**, to answer questions specific to our region. These recordings will also be posted on the website **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 Grants e-Portal. 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.