

The Texas Health Community Impact grant program is committed to fostering innovative, collaborative and strategically aligned initiatives that address critical health challenges in our communities. This outlines the standardized requirements for applicants seeking funding during the 2027–2028 cycle, emphasizing the importance of innovation as defined by the Public Health Accreditation Board. By setting clear expectations for project design, collaboration and sustainability, Texas Health aims to support impactful solutions that reduce health disparities and improve outcomes in high-needs ZIP codes.

## Innovation



Texas Health has adopted the Public Health Innovation definition, as outlined by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).<sup>xi</sup>

### Public Health Innovation

As described by the PHAB, public health innovation refers to the creation and implementation of a novel process, policy, product, program or system leading to improvements that impact health.

### Tenets of public health innovation include the following:

- ✓ It is an ongoing, systematic process that can generate incremental or radical change.
- ✓ It requires both collaboration and co-production with people with lived experience who will be affected by the results of the innovation.
- ✓ It is an open process lending itself to adaptation or replication.

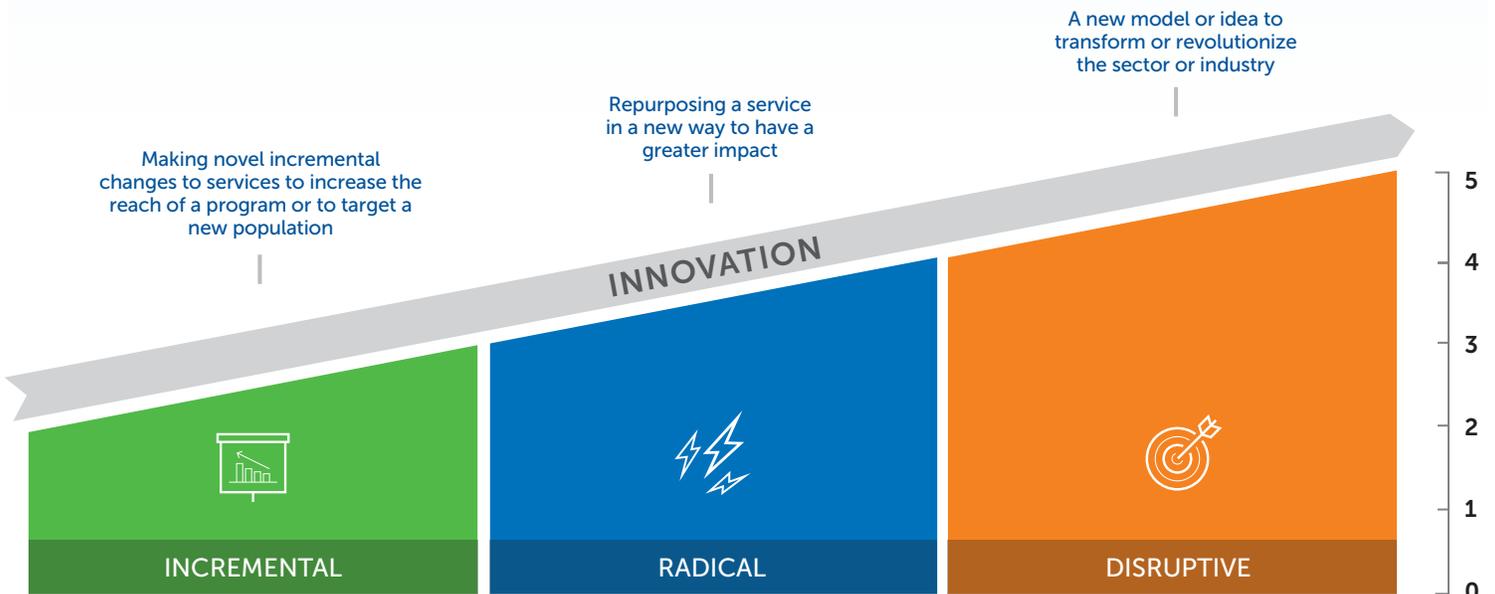
## Strategic Alignment



Applicants are expected to detail how proposed initiatives adequately respond to the regional priorities and fulfills the requirement to serve the targeted ZIP code areas.

### Proposed projects are expected to:

- ✓ Focus on reducing the negative impact of non-medical drivers of health for the populations in high-needs ZIP codes.
- ✓ Incorporate innovative solutions to improve health in communities with worsening health outcomes.
- ✓ Have a solid implementation plan that considers cultural sensitivities and addresses community needs.
- ✓ Clearly demonstrate the level of involvement and contributions from collaborators, including deliverables and budgetary commitments.
- ✓ Identify opportunities for Texas Health to engage through volunteering.



# KEY REQUIREMENTS

## Collaboration



Collaboration means working together to address systemic problems with the community at the center. According to the National Network for Collaboration, approaches that “bring individuals, agencies, organizations and community members” together to generate solutions for current and emerging problems collectively are at the core of collaboration.

Collaborative approaches integrate service offerings, building meaningful connections between agencies to eliminate gaps in community services. As indicated in Figure A, collaboration involves multiple organizations aligning efforts and working collectively toward a shared goal.

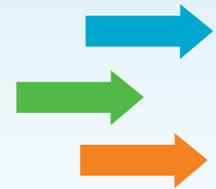
### INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

- One or more organizations working in silos
- No communication with others
- Does not qualify for this funding



### ISOLATED IMPACTS

- Separate business objectives
- Little time together
- Poor communication
- Distant



### COORDINATED EFFORT

- Shared goals and objectives
- Strong communication among collaborative organizations
- Dedicated time
- Close



Figure A. Visual representation of what Texas Health Community Impact means by collaboration as a coordinated effort.

Adapted from Collective Impact at UC San Diego

## Promoting Sustainability



Texas Health also focuses on improving the potential for sustainability, by ensuring applicants clearly understand the evaluation requirements, offering personalized technical assistance and supporting the efforts of our third-party evaluation in strengthening data collection and reporting.

By adhering to these standardized requirements, applicants can ensure their proposals reflect the core values that drive the Texas Health Community Impact. Our shared commitment to addressing non-medical drivers of health, fostering meaningful partnerships and promoting sustainability will help create lasting improvements in the communities we serve. Together, we can advance health outcomes and build a foundation for impactful, data-driven solutions that endure beyond the grant cycle.