

Since the release of this opportunity, we received several questions from potential applicants. While we are responding individually to each received question, below we have also compiled answers to some of the most commonly received inquiries in order to promote a consistent sharing of information more broadly among the potential applicant pool.

Funding Opportunity Purpose

- This opportunity is designed to support nonprofit organizations to understand and uplift community experiences, needs, and narratives related to oral health. Grantees will also begin identifying ways to support advocacy for, and implementation of, the change priorities identified.
 - o Organizations will receive group learning opportunities and 1-1 technical assistance support, therefore experience with oral health-specific policy/practice change advocacy is not required.

Eligibility

- Non-clinical, community-focused organizations are eligible to apply for this opportunity. Non-clinical is defined as an applicant organization's primary aim of providing a service or support that is not clinical care. Organizations who refer individuals to clinical entities or collaborate with an external clinical entity to provide services to on-site at their organization (e.g., medical, or dental bus) are eligible to apply.
- Colleges and universities, including dental hygiene and dental assisting programs, are not eligible for this opportunity.
- If your organization is interested in this work, but not eligible for this opportunity, please complete [this form](#) so that we can connect you with applicants who align with your work and interests after grantees are selected.

Application and Narrative Proposal Content

- Multiple organizations may apply for this funding opportunity together if they intend to work collaboratively on the project. Applications representing multiple organizations must articulate a clear plan for collaboration, each organization's role, rationale for involvement, and how funding will be equitably allocated between entities.
- The Foundation does not have specific expectations for the structure and data collected in each community engagement initiative as the best approach will vary between organizations and communities. At this stage we are seeking to understand your general thought process, plan, and approach to engaging community members and community partners.
 - o If sharing information on partner organizations in your proposal, consider including why you plan to partner with them and your current relationship with the organization.
- Proposals building on previous experiences or learnings from community, including those related to oral health, are allowable.

Budget

- Find a description of funding from this opportunity on page 9 of the [funding opportunity document](#).
- Funding for this opportunity should not be used for clinical services.
- Selected grantees will identify ways to advocate for identified community oral health needs, however costs associated with this future advocacy should not be included in this budget. As the initiative progresses, the Foundation will identify the best way to support future grantee engagement.

- Items included in the budget proposal should be justified by the proposal narrative. Consider including a clarifying note in the budget form if there is potential for confusion.
- The Blue Cross NC Foundation will support indirect/overhead costs included in the budget. The Foundation also believes in compensating community members and other entities for their time worked. Including this in your budget is acceptable.
- The Blue Cross NC Foundation has a flexible funding approach that does allow for adjustments within budget categories if the project needs change, as long as it is in alignment with the overall intention for the funding.

Selection Criteria

- This funding opportunity seeks to hear the perspectives and experiences of those in groups known to have oral health access and/or outcomes disparities, such as, American Indian, Black, Latino, and other people of color; rural communities; low-income communities; people with disabilities; LGBTQ communities; immigrant communities; older adults, and/or communities whose primary language is not English. We are seeking out organizations who have proven relationships/trust with one or more of these communities.

Blue Cross NC Foundation Grantee Experience

- The Blue Cross NC Foundation does an annual learning call with each grantee, where we discuss process, successes, and challenges. Beyond this, we are flexible in how we engage - we can check in by email, phone, or in-person at a frequency that makes sense for the grantee.
- The Foundation generally does not expect to be acknowledged in things like project materials, events, reports (unless otherwise agreed upon) but are happy to talk with grantees about the best way to do so.
- Program Officers are available to support the work however it is most helpful from the grantee perspective. If active participation is requested and appropriate, staff are happy to engage.