



Request for Proposal

Submission Deadline: March 24, 2023

Ecosystem Scan of Grantee Work in Raising Community Voices on Health

Background

About the Foundation

The [Episcopal Health Foundation \(EHF\)](#) believes all Texans deserve to live a healthy life - especially the poor and those with the least resources. Our public health orientation leads us to focus on upstream work that goes beyond providing healthcare services in a doctor's office and seeks to address the underlying social, economic, behavioral, and environmental causes of poor health. We are most interested in work that takes a systems approach to improve community health, which leads us to focus on creating and supporting intentional connections between and among institutions aimed at not just improving healthcare delivery but transforming the health of an entire community.

With more than \$1.2 billion in estimated assets, EHF operates as a supporting organization of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and works to help improve the health and well-being of the 15 million people living throughout the 80-county region of the Diocese.

Project Overview

Strategy 6: Community Voice

Community Voice: Support organizations to raise the voices of community members to influence community health.

Strengthening community voices is one of EHF's strategies in its [current strategic framework](#). Developing new community health leaders and supporting focused communities acting on population health issues, we support grantees and engage partners to develop and deploy advocacy skills to advance population health in their communities. EHF supports systems change at the community level through approaches that drive and deepen change. EHF supports grantees to (1) do effective community engagement work, (2) develop capacity for resident leadership work with a special focus

on youth leadership, (3) support community mobilization and participation in health-focused collaboratives, and (4) perform upstream advocacy and practice change in innovative sector-based strengthening work.

Advancing this strategy means taking strategic action to amplify community voices by deepening system change at the community-level focused on issues that are important to community members and impact health-outcomes, particularly in low-income and vulnerable populations.

Project Overview

EHF draws upon multiple tools to support our grantees focused on **raising community voices**. Supporting community-based organizations and emerging population health leaders requires more than just funding. Our grant officers support existing and emerging solutions; engage with grantees to develop and deploy advocacy skills that advance population health in their communities; and provide organizational effectiveness (OE) funding for tools and training to strengthen individuals, communities, and coalitions to amplify their voices.

EHF's work is guided by two important concepts. First, health is more than healthcare. Decades of research affirm that non-medical factors outside of traditional healthcare influence our health. We aim to reduce the gap between healthcare and these non-medical drivers of health. Second, we look for upstream solutions that support health—changing systems and policy, while strengthening referral networks, rather than focusing on individual behaviors.

The purpose of this project is to advise EHF on the future of its approaches to support community health advocacy through grantmaking as we pivot into a new strategic framework in 2024.

Through this project, we seek to understand:

- 1) The impact (short/long term) of our grantees' work in raising community voices on health
- 2) Trends in organizational level changes relevant to sector grantees
- 3) Emergent themes, strategies, and policy movement that could be leveraged through further EHF investment
- 4) Effective business models and approaches for grantees' organizational capacity to amplify long-term sustainability beyond the grant period
- 5) Any challenges or unanticipated results (positive/negative) of grantee work

Furthermore, EHF recognizes the unique perspectives of those living in historically under-resourced and disenfranchised communities; we believe elements of **health equity** need to be woven into this work so that our actions reflect the true needs of communities we serve.

We are looking for actionable and future-focused recommendations that capitalize on EHF's unique position and help move forward our effectiveness in raising community voices around health. Once informed by this project, EHF will be able to: 1) **"tell a story"** about the impact of our community health advocacy investments, 2) deepen our understanding of the organizational needs and trends of our S6 grantees; 3) fine-tune the alignment of our funding strategy with emergent themes, approaches, and policy environments for grantees amplifying community voices; and 4) deepen our capacity to strengthen and support sustainable and effective grantee business models for long-term work.

Health Equity

EHF was founded on the idea that all Texans deserve to be healthy.

"Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care."

For the Foundation's work to be transformative, it must support communities in adopting new ways of problem-solving. Healthy communities require perspectives and input from all who comprise the community. Sustainable solutions are derived from this combined effort.

Related to this RFP, we endeavor to advance health equity in all aspects of this project, including the selection, contracting, design and implementation processes.

Activities and Consultant Responsibilities

Activities related to this work should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Complete an internal scan of grantee reports, identifying and documenting historical programmatic trends and impact achieved over time

- Perform and analyze qualitative interviews with grantees to identify emergent themes in their experiences of working to raise community voices
- Identify and document policy wins and facilitating factors important to the work of Strategy 6 EHF grantees
- Develop an ecosystem map of the sector to better understand how this work is influencing community, policy, and system changes
- Inform the modification of the existing Strategy 6 logic model to support the development of metrics and indicators for future grantmaking
- Conduct a preliminary scan of how other funders support/fund this work
- Identify themes, strategies, and policy movement that could amplify community voices on health issues if leveraged through further investment
- Identify current and emerging models for community health advocacy, including best practices and organizational transformation

Deliverables

Project deliverables include:

- An interim memo summarizing progress, challenges, and early observations
- A final written report detailing methodology, findings, and strategic recommendations at the conclusion of the work
- An executive summary of the written report of findings and recommendations not to exceed four pages
- A presentation of the findings and recommendations to the EHF team

Proposal Requirements

EHF is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTQ, and other underrepresented applicants.

Responses to this RFP are due **March 24** and should include:

- 1) A cover letter of up to two pages describing:
 - a. your area(s) of expertise and prior experience relevant to the work described in this request for proposal (RFP).
 - b. your experience in applying health equity concepts to community-based participatory research (CBPR), evaluation, community advocacy, policy advocacy, or related work.
- 2) A proposal of up to six pages that includes a detailed timeline, budget (not to exceed \$80,000), and a work scope describing how you plan to complete the project and execute the deliverables.
- 3) Information about individuals and organizations that will support this project, including resumes, areas of expertise, and prior experience in the area encompassed by the scope of work.
- 4) Up to three example deliverables (program evaluation or community health advocacy-related reports, presentation slide decks or presentation recordings) from the last five years as examples of your work.
- 5) At least two references from similar projects completed within the last five years. Each reference should describe the project, dates of work, outcomes achieved, and a client reference that includes name, title, email, and phone.
- 6) In our effort to promote diversity, inclusivity, and advance equity, EHF is beginning to collect demographic data about our consultants. At the RFP stage, applicants are asked (but not required) to provide demographic information through the following form:
https://episcopalhealth.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50hPkyLczLRsmH4.

Timeline

Response to the RFP is due by **Friday, March 24, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. CST.**

Please email to Zblakeney@episcopalhealth.org and Awilliams@episcopalhealth.org.

EHF anticipates a six-month duration for this work but may extend the timeframe to nine months. The anticipated contract start date is **April 24, 2023**, with a target completion date of **October 31, 2023**.

Proposal Review and Selection Process

- **RFP Release Date:**
 - Tuesday, February 21, 2023
- **Proposal Submission Deadline:**
 - Friday, March 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CT.
 - Submit to Zahyrah Blakeney (ZBlakeney@episcopalhealth.org) and Aerial Williams (AWilliams@episcopalhealth.org)
- **Internal staff and partner review and recommendation:**
 - Proposal review: March 27-April 13, 2023 (three weeks)
 - Recommendation: April 14, 2023
- **Notify selected consultant:**
 - April 14, 2023
 - Contract processed: week of April 17-April 21, 2023
- **Project work to begin:**
 - April 24, 2023

Please direct all questions to Zahyrah Blakeney, ZBlakney@episcopalhealth.org.