Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation
Moving people and ideas into action.

NCCARE360 Community Organizations and Network Support Agencies Health Equity Grants

Request for Applications Questions and Answers

Q1: There were two (2) documents attached. Both are for the same grants but one document states that one has to serve certain counties. The other does not include that. Am I reading that correctly? What is the rationale for focusing only on those counties?

A: The NCCARE360 Community Organizations and Network Support Agencies Health Equity Grants are two separate grant opportunities. The first grant (for Community Organizations) will support plans for organizations who are interested in either onboarding onto or increasing their use of NCCARE360 to connect the people they serve to other community services. The second grant (for Network Support Agencies) will support organizations interested in serving as agencies that will work to grow and support the organizations on the NCCARE360 network in their region through meaningful technical assistance and other strategies. FHLI anticipates that most organizations will apply for one grant opportunity; however, organizations that fit the eligibility and functions of both grants may submit separate applications for each opportunity.

For both grant opportunities, organizations that apply must provide services in Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Vance, or Wake counties.

Q2: What is the rationale for focusing only on those counties?

A: The goal of the grant is to create a strong community network, as well as the framework for sustainability of community-based organizations through alternative financing mechanisms e.g., contracting with health care systems. Due to the size of the funding, a region of contiguous counties that had a strong baseline of NCCARE360 use and was in the catchment areas of large health systems, was selected.

Q3: Is the funding opportunity only for organizations already using/onboarded to NCCARE360?

A: No. Grant funds can be used to support organizations to either onboard onto NCCARE360 or to increase the use of NCCARE360 by agencies already using the platform. Organizations that are not already on NCCARE360 will be required to onboard within 60 days after the grant. The overall goal is to connect the people they serve to needed community services and resources, as well as foster deeper cross-sector partnership.

Q4: I'm an Emergency Medicine physician, where we implemented NCCARE360 last year. We have started our own program to screen for unmet social needs and enroll in NCCARE360, and our early

results from the emergency department are quite promising. There is a significant and disproportionate need in this population. Would I be eligible to apply for the Community Organizing Grant if the purpose was to bolster use of NCCARE360 in my organization, and determine areas of need in my community as they relate to Community-based Organizations?

A: The Community Grant is aimed at creating a more robust network of community service providers that can meet the needs of people identified and referred for services through NCCARE360. The grant will prioritize organizations that provide community services in one of the following areas: food assistance, income support, housing and shelter, individual and family services, utilities, clothing and home goods, employment, transportation, benefits navigation, social enrichment, education, and legal services. Other service areas are not excluded from applying if the organization meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the grant announcement, but priority will be given to aforementioned the services. In addition, organizations that provide clinical care but also provide one of the service types listed above, may still qualify as a prioritized organization to the extent the grant funds are creating sustainability to the delivery of those community services.

In addition, organizations must meet all three requirements below in order to apply:

(1) Organization is a North Carolina-based community or grassroots organizations, which may include a public or private nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations (including faith-based), health care organizations, local governmental agencies, and educational institutions.
(2) Organization is located in or serves one or more of the following counties: Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Vance, and Wake.
(3) Organization is currently on NCCARE360 or is willing to onboard within 60 days of contract execution.

Q5: The CDC requirements include a Data Management Plan if the collection of data is required; the RFP does not include any requirement for collection of data. Is it safe to assume that a Data Management Plan will not be required?

A: Organizations that receive funding will agree to the following provisions:
- Coordinate with the Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Unite Us, NC 2-1-1, and other program partners.
- Submit monthly reports to FHLI in accordance with guidelines and reporting schedule to be provided by FHLI.
- Submit monthly invoices to FHLI documenting the spending for the previous month by the 5th of the month.
- Use communications language and materials provided through FHLI, Unite Us, and/or other program partners and use the name and trademarks of FHLI, Unite Us and other program partners only in accordance with instructions that may be provided from time to time. Newly created communications language and materials must be approved by FHLI.

- Share best practices and lessons learned with FHLI and, as relevant, other program partners.
- Provide a final grant narrative report after the end of contract in accordance with guidelines to be provided by FHLI. Agree to the terms in the subcontractor agreement included in APPENDIX 1.

Selected organizations will receive guidance from FHLI regarding data needed for monthly reporting. This data collection will include, but not limited to:

Community Organizations Grant:
- Budget Report (template will be provided)
- Progress Report (template will be provided)
  - o Domain of Service (all that apply)
  - o Onboarded onto NCCARE360 as of report (Y/N)
  - o Total Licensed Users in Organization
  - o Total Referrals before grant award
  - o Total Cases before grant award
  - o Total Referrals month over month after grant award
  - o Total Cases month over month after grant award
  - o Narrative successes/challenges

Network Support Agency Grant:
- Budget Report (template will be provided)
- Progress Report (template will be provided)
  - o Domain of Service (all that apply)
  - o Onboarded onto NCCARE360 as of report (Y/N)
  - o Number of Organizations receiving technical assistance
    - ▪ List of organizations that have onboarded on to NCCARE360 because of technical assistance
  - o Total Licensed Users in Organization, (if applicable)
  - o Total Referrals before grant award (if applicable)
  - o Total Cases before grant award (if applicable)
  - o Total Referrals month over month after grant award (if applicable)
  - o Total Cases month over month after grant award (if applicable)
  - o Narrative successes/challenges

Reporting will be discussed during the Project Orientation for each grant.

Q6: Is this grant intended primarily for organizations who provide community services, such as food or housing? For the purpose of this grant, what is the definition of "community services"?

Yes. The Community Grant is aimed at creating a more robust network of community service providers that can meet the needs of people identified and referred for services through NCCARE360. The grant will prioritize organizations that provide community services in one of the following areas: food

assistance, income support, housing and shelter, individual and family services, utilities, clothing and home goods, employment, transportation, benefits navigation, social enrichment, education, and legal services. Other service areas are not excluded from applying if the organization meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the grant announcement, but priority will be given to the aforementioned services. In addition, organizations that provide clinical care but also provide one of the service types listed above, may still qualify as a prioritized organization to the extent the grant funds are creating sustainability to the delivery of those community services.

Q7: Are behavioral health and primary care services included in the definition of "community services"? Are non-profit health/mental health care providers eligible to apply for this grant? If so, is the intended focus on referring agency's clients to other community services through NCCARE360 or to strengthen agency's ability to accept referrals through NCCARE360 for health/mental health care services?

A: Organizations are eligible to apply for this grant if they are:

(1) Organization is a North Carolina-based community or grassroots organizations, which may include a public or private nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations (including faith-based), health care organizations, local governmental agencies, and educational institutions.
(2) Organization is located in or serves one or more of the following counties: Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Vance, and Wake.
(3) Organization is currently on NCCARE360 or is willing to onboard within 60 days of contract execution.

For the purposes of this grant, community services are defined as non-clinical services and resources that meet the unmet social needs (or non-medical drivers of health) of individuals and families in the community. Therefore, the intended focus is to address the network-identified service needs related to food assistance, income support, housing and shelter, individual and family services, utilities, clothing and home goods, employment, transportation, benefits navigation, social enrichment, education, and legal services. Any organization that is responding to referrals (e.g., offering any community services) and is committed to responding to NCCARE360 referrals and providing those services are eligible to apply. However, organizations delivering non-clinical services will be prioritized.

Q8: Per "Funding Restrictions", recipients may not use funds for clinical care except as allowed by law. Does this mean that funds cannot be used for increasing referrals for clinical care? What is the scope of "clinical care" in this context?

A: In the context of the grants, clinical care means involving or relating to the direct medical treatment or testing of patients. Health care and/or behavioral health organizations that fall within the eligibility requirements may apply but must conduct activities outlined in the grant announcement.

The Community Grant is aimed at creating a more robust network of community service providers that can meet the needs of people identified and referred for services through NCCARE360. The grant will

prioritize organizations that provide community services in one of the following areas: food assistance, income support, housing and shelter, individual and family services, utilities, clothing and home goods, employment, transportation, benefits navigation, social enrichment, education, and legal services. Other service areas are not excluded from applying if the organization meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the grant announcement, but priority will be given to aforementioned the services. In addition, organizations that provide clinical care but also provide one of the service types listed above, may still qualify as a prioritized organization to the extent the grant funds are creating sustainability to the delivery of those community services.

Q9: Per "Evaluation Criteria," priority will be given to organizations that fill an identified need in the network. What are the current network-identified needs?

A: Current network-identified needs include Service Needs related to food assistance, income support, housing and shelter, individual and family services, utilities, clothing and home goods, employment, transportation, benefits navigation, social enrichment, education, and legal services. Other service areas are not excluded from applying if the organization meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the grant announcement, but priority will be given to aforementioned the services.

Q10: Our business is a registered s-corp. We provide parent education and work alongside healthcare organizations. I want to clarify if we can or cannot apply for the grant funds?

A: The health equity grant is open to all tax-exempt programs so if the s-corp is tax exempt, you would be eligible to apply.

Q11: Where can we apply for Community Organizations and Network Support Agencies Health Equity Grants funding opportunity.

A: The NCCARE360 Community Organizations and Network Support Agencies Health Equity Grants are two separate grant opportunities, however, organizations that fit the eligibility and functions of both grants may submit separate applications for each opportunity.

The applications are available on our website at: https://nccare360.org/community-funding/
- ➢ Scroll down to the middle of the page where you see the teal rectangles/boxes. You may download each application by clicking on the corresponding box:
  - o Click on CO Application box for the Community Organization Application
  - o Click on NSA Grant Application box for the Network Support Agency Application.

You may also click the hyperlinks below:

*Please note that there are separate applications for each opportunity. Agencies may apply for both opportunities but must submit a separate application for each. *

- ➢ To download the application for the Community Organization Grant, please click here: CO Grant Application

- ➢ To download the application for the Network Support Agency Grant, please click here: NSA Grant Application

- ➢ Agencies will use the same budget template for both applications. To download the budget template, click here: Budget Template

Organizations must submit an electronic copy of their application in PDF format to RFP@foundationhli.org by 1:00 PM on Monday, February 28, 2022. Submissions will be confirmed by reply email. Late proposals will not be evaluated.