

COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Background

The California Alliance of Academics and Communities for Public Health Equity ('The Alliance') is a new statewide policy, training, and research collaboration. We amplify the voice of California's university schools and programs of public health (SPPH) in partnership with communities disproportionately impacted by health disparities to build a common agenda, grow a workforce dedicated to advancing health equity and catalyze substantive policy change.

What is the Community Action Fund?

The Alliance's Community Action Fund provides grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) to build their capacity to partner with California's university schools and programs of public health (SPPH) on projects of the CBO's own design. It is meant to build capacity and power in our local communities and provide the financial support needed to devote staff resources to work alongside SPPHs.

Why Launch a Community Action Fund?

We believe in the power of collaboration, and that CBOs partnering with academic and governmental public health organizations can produce powerful systemic change. The Community Action Fund acknowledges the crucial role that advocacy and service organizations have as leaders in this work. The Alliance is committed to supporting CBOs in transforming the status quo and collaborating across sectors to bolster health equity statewide.

Grant Funding

For our 2023 spring funding, the Alliance is prioritizing projects in the planning or implementation phases in the following issue areas:

- **Building an equity-minded workforce:** Efforts to grow the workforce pipeline, train people already in the field, improve working conditions and more to improve the health and quality of life for people from marginalized communities. Projects can focus on the traditional health workforce, community-based health professions, or professions that work on the social determinants of health.
- **Environment & health:** Efforts focused on the health impacts of climate change and environmental hazards in communities disproportionately impacted by health disparities. Projects can include the social determinants of health.

- **Violence prevention:** Efforts to address violence as a public health crisis, prioritizing projects and issues related to intimate partner violence (IPV). Projects can be focused on violence prevention, intervention, response, support for victims and communities, and more.

Although these are our current priority areas, the Alliance is open to other projects related to health equity. To determine if a project qualifies for this funding, please connect with the Alliance staff at: info-alliance@phi.org.

Grant Funding Timeline:

- Application Submission Deadline: Friday, April 14, 2023 at 12PM
- Award Notification: Early May 2023

Grant Funding Logistics:

- **Award Term:** May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024
- **Award Amounts:** \$10,000-\$25,000
- **Grant payment:** Initial payment will be received in June 2023, with the balance received upon submission of a December 2023 progress report.

Eligibility:

- Local or regional community-based organizations will be the primary applicants. CBOs should be 501(c)3 nonprofits, or organizations with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor.
- CBOs must currently work with, or plan to work with, an academic partner from a California university School or Program of Public Health (SPPH) on the proposed project.
- Projects should be led by a CBO, have a local or regional impact, and tackle community-defined needs around health equity, including the social determinants of health.
- Projects should include, engage, and focus on improving conditions for individuals and communities historically facing the most health inequities.
- Both service-delivery projects or projects that advance policy and systems change are eligible.
- Funds can be used flexibly, including for staff time, equipment, and partnership costs

Types of Grants

Organizations can choose to apply to ONE of the following grant types.

1. Project Development Grant:

This grant funds CBOs to develop new projects with a SPPH partner. CBOs can apply with an existing partner, or request to be matched with an academic partner through the Alliance. For this grant, applicants must:

- Have a general idea of the need the project is addressing, including the proposed purpose, scope and audience that the project will serve.
- Be committed to the project and intend to implement the development plan.
- Have an understanding of what “success” for this project would like, including at least two key metrics of success and how they connect to advancing health equity (examples are in the application).
- A third deliverable for all grantees will be demonstrating increased knowledge of the opportunities and challenges of academic/community collaboration. Grantees will demonstrate this through a short written statement in the grant report.

2. Project Implementation Grant:

This grant funds CBOs to work with SPPH academic partners to implement or evaluate a project that is already planned or underway. For this grant applicants must:

- Have a clear idea of the need the project is addressing, including the proposed purpose, scope and audience that the project will serve.
- Have a strong existing relationship with an academic partner, and be committed to maintaining a long-term relationship.
- Have a clear plan of action and timeline for the project.
- Have a clear understanding of what “success” for this project would like, including at least two key metrics of success and how they connect to advancing health equity (examples are in the application).
- A third deliverable for all grantees will be demonstrating increased knowledge of the opportunities and challenges of academic/community collaboration. Grantees will demonstrate this through a short written statement in the grant report.

Selection Criteria includes:

- Strength and feasibility of proposals
- The potential impact of projects on local, regional and state levels
- The alignment of projects with the Alliance’s highest priority issue areas

- The geography and population served, in efforts to have a diverse reach
- Consideration given to regions with limited funding resources available

Sample Grant Projects

- Evaluations studying the effectiveness or impact of a CBO's program (looking at interventions that are already being implemented, demonstrating if they work)
- Needs assessments or research on community conditions that help a CBO do their work
- Advocacy campaigns
- Collaborative work on a larger grant proposal for a foundation or government funder
- Education and training projects that help CBOs grow their knowledge and skills
- Data analysis or visualization efforts around a CBO's data
- Policy briefs, frameworks, or recommendations based on community input
- Other proposals, TBD

Questions? Contact: info-alliance@phi.org