

Funding Opportunity: New Collaborations to Address Key Community Health Issues 2019

Background:

Colorado Springs Health Foundation's mission is to make grants to target immediate health care needs and encourage healthy living in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado. One of CSHF's values is collaboration. CSHF's evaluation findings plus the broader collaboration literature note that structured and focused collaborations can be an effective approach to addressing complex and stubborn health concerns. However, effective collaborations require significant investments of time, money, and organizational commitment as well as thoughtful structure and leadership. The use of the Collective Impact framework, which includes the key role of a backbone organization(s), has been shown to strengthen a collaboration's capacity to improve community outcomes.

Goal:

Fund one or two new collaborative efforts that addresses a critical community health need and has the potential to transform.

Funding will be:

- Highly selective
- Multiyear (up to 3 years) because establishing a healthy collaboration takes time, effort, structure and expert support
- Used primarily for backbone functions. These functions include but are not limited to facilitation, planning, goal/vision setting, project management, evaluation/measurement, administration. See "Understanding the Value of Backbone Organizations in Collective Impact" by Turner et al, Stanford Social Innovation Review, July 2012 for more insight on backbone functions.
- No guarantee of future funding

Eligible Applicant Organizations:

- 501(c)3 organizations,
- Tax-supported institutions like schools or local/state governments, or
- Organizations operating under the fiscal agency of a 501(c)3 organization or tax-supported institution

Role of the Applicant Organization:

The applicant, if funded, is the organization that is fiscally responsible for the grant, if awarded. This means that the applicant either supplies part or all of the backbone functions or agrees to contract for backbone resources associated with the grant.

Geographic Focus: El Paso County, Colorado and/or Teller County, Colorado

Grant Period: Up to three years

Proposals with the following attributes will be considered more competitive:

- The proposed collaboration addresses a key community health challenge whose mitigation or resolution will require the intentional and combined efforts of diverse organizations, perspectives and disciplines
- The critical community health challenge of interest is linked to one of CSHF's funding focus areas
- No existing collaboration is addressing this issue
- The proposed work (the request) embraces and reflects the principles and practices of collective impact, including the use of a backbone organization(s). Please see "Collective Impact" by John Kania and Mark Kramer, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011.
- A salient and diverse set of community organizations/individuals/disciplines have expressed their intention and commitment to work together toward collaboration using the collective impact model
- Backbone organization(s) and/or resources have been identified and the associated cost(s) estimated. These cost estimates are reflected in the request budget.
- The proposed collaboration has transformative potential.

Resources:

- Kania and Kramer, "[Collective Impact](#)," Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011
- Turner et al, "Understanding the Value of Backbone Organizations in Collective Impact," [blog post]. Retrieved from Stanford Social Innovation Review, July 2012
 - [Understanding the Value of Backbone Organizations in Collective Impact: Part 1](#)
 - [Understanding the Value of Backbone Organizations in Collective Impact: Part 2](#)
 - [Understanding the Value of Backbone Organizations in Collective Impact: Part 3](#)
 - [Understanding the Value of Backbone Organizations in Collective Impact: Part 4](#)

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If you are interested in applying for funding, you must speak with Colorado Springs Health Foundation staff about your proposal before applying. If you do not have this conversation first, your application will not be considered. Please sign up for a date/time that works for you using the following link:

<https://calendly.com/cshf/cshf-phone-conversations>

If you have questions or the Calendly link does not work, please call or email CSHF staff at 719-985-8989 (office) or info@cshf.net to set up a time to talk.

Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019, **noon**, Mountain Time. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

The application may be found at www.CSHF.net/current-grant-opportunities/ . Grant award decisions are expected by November 2019.