

## RFP: 2021 Special Projects Fund

### OVERVIEW

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2021 Special Projects Fund. Each year, this Fund provides a total of approximately \$2.5 million for projects that support NYSHealth's mission to improve the health of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable populations. In order to extend its mission across different focus areas, projects selected for funding are not permitted to address any of the following NYSHealth priorities:

- Healthy Food, Healthy Lives;
- Empowering Health Care Consumers; and
- Veterans' Health.

The full RFP is available [here](#) and an FAQ is available [here](#). There will only be one round of Special Projects funding in 2021. The online inquiry form is due on April 21<sup>st</sup> and the full proposal (for invited applicants only) will be due on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

### FUNDING

NYSHealth will provide a one-time, nonrenewable grant between \$50,000 and \$300,000 to successful applicants. Special Projects Fund grants are typically in the \$250,000 range, with about five to fifteen awards made annually. Funds requested must be commensurate with the timeline and scope of work proposed. NYSHealth will allow a maximum of 15 percent administrative overhead for projects funded through this RFP. Equipment purchases and capital expenses are not eligible for funding.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations or for-profit organizations that can demonstrate their ability to significantly impact the health of New Yorkers in alignment with NYSHealth's mission.

Organizations that previously submitted a full application for the Special Projects Fund (whether they received an award or not) should not reapply with the same project. Other than under exceptional circumstances, awarded projects will not be renewed and non-awarded projects will not be approved.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Eligible projects are coordinated interventions that take place over a specified period of time and that aim to achieve measurable results. In order to be eligible for funding, projects must adhere to the following criteria:

- A clear articulation of need and a focus on vulnerable populations;
- A clear articulation of opportunity, goals, timelines, objectives, and measurable outcomes;
- An effective plan for evaluating the measurable impact of the project based on the potential funding to be received;
- The experience, potential, and readiness of the applicant organization to complete the project successfully;

- A demonstration of how the project will be financially and programmatically sustainable after one-time grant support from NYSHealth (particularly relevant for projects that start new services), including an explanation of the business plan for sustaining the project;
- Strong potential for replication elsewhere in New York State or nationally;
- Information on how and why the initiative represents a special opportunity for NYSHealth funding; and
- A degree of creativity or innovation.

Projects will not be considered for funding if they have any of the following characteristics:

- Projects that address any of NYSHealth’s priority or focus areas as outlined above;
- Projects that involve funding of ongoing services or activities similar to the normal activities undertaken by an organization;
- Core support/organizational infrastructure, including baseline operating and administrative costs, board development, staff development unrelated to the project, and fundraising activities;
- Projects that involve the purchase, installation, or upgrade of health information technology systems, including electronic medical records and other equipment;
- Projects that are biomedical research-oriented;
- Projects that focus on lobbying; and
- Capital expenses (e.g., buildings, vehicles, rent).

## APPLICATION

Proposals will be evaluated by a diverse panel of reviewers from across the state using the above eligibility criteria and program requirements. Although projects that have an impact within one organization or community are eligible for funding, preference will be given to proposals that have a large-scale regional or statewide impact on New York State’s health system.

## Timeline

The online inquiry form must be submitted by April 21<sup>st</sup>. Following a review of submitted inquiry forms, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal that will be due on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Applicants can expect to be notified by May 2021 if they have been invited to submit a full proposal. Awarded applicants will be notified by October 2021.

The online inquiry form and application instructions are available on the NYSHealth website [here](#). Programmatic questions should be submitted to [specialprojectsfund@nyshealth.org](mailto:specialprojectsfund@nyshealth.org) and technical questions regarding the online application system should be submitted to Keenen Willis at [willis@nyshealth.org](mailto:willis@nyshealth.org).