

RFP: NYSEHealth Healthy Food, Healthy Lives

OVERVIEW

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSEHealth) has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for their new priority area [Healthy Food, Healthy Lives](#), which seeks to implement the following two strategies to promote nutrition in New York:

- Enabling policies that promote healthy and affordable food; and
- Testing and scaling programs that connect people to healthy and affordable food.

This RFP seeks to address food insecurity among New Yorkers that was exacerbated as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on improving racial and health equity in New York's food system.

The full RFP is available [here](#) and an FAQ is available [here](#). The online inquiry form is due on June 9th and the full proposal (for invited applicants only) will be due on August 25th.

FUNDING

NYSEHealth will provide grants of up to \$300,000 to successful applicants. Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Are statewide or regional in scope;
- Have system-wide implications; and
- Build collaboration among organizations.

NYSEHealth will also award smaller grants to organizations or consortiums working at a more local level to implement projects that have the potential to be scaled or replicated. In general, this RFP will not fund general operating support, capital expenses (e.g., construction/renovation, building materials), or lobbying.

Funds requested must be commensurate with the scope of work proposed. Project periods may range from 12 to 24 months.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include:

- Not-for-profit organizations;
- For-profit organizations;
- Government agencies; and
- Academic organizations.

All applicants must be New York State-based; however, applicants may partner or subcontract with a non-New York-based organization if it offers resources and expertise beneficial to the project.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Enabling Policies:
 - Supporting the sound implementation of federal food policy at the state and local levels;
 - Leading planning and implementation of local and regional food plans;
 - Making nutrition incentive programs (e.g., Health Bucks, Double Up Food Bucks) more widely available;
 - Reducing barriers to and streamlining enrollment and participation in SNAP and WIC;
 - Improving procurement policies for large institutions to support the purchasing of high-quality, culturally appropriate, and nutritious foods; and
 - Producing actionable data analyses that support policy changes to spur program expansion and replication, such as online SNAP purchasing.
- Testing and Scaling Programs:
 - Improving the purchasing power of food banks and pantries and the quality of food distributed;
 - Replicating partnerships between health care systems and healthy food initiatives, such as produce prescription programs;
 - Scaling programs that help empower communities to grow their own food;
 - Building capacity of small or newly formed consortiums that address racial disparities in the food system; and
 - Supporting counter-marketing programs that reduce the demand for unhealthy products.

Projects related to climate change/ecology, labor issues related to farmers/food chain workers, and land use/farm preservation are not eligible for funding.

APPLICATION

Online inquiry forms will be reviewed internally by NYSHHealth staff, who will invite selected applicants to submit a full proposal. A panel of external experts and NYSHHealth staff will review full proposals. Selection criteria will include, but not be limited to:

- The project will have a regional or statewide impact, or have the potential for replication beyond the local level;
- The project leverages federal, state, or local priorities and resources; and
- The project addresses racial and health inequities in the food system and among food-insecure New Yorkers.

Timeline

The online inquiry form must be submitted by June 9th. Following a review of submitted inquiry forms, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal that will be due on August 25th. Applicants can expect to be notified by July 31st regarding the status of their application.

The online inquiry form and application instructions are available on the NYSHHealth website [here](#). Programmatic questions should be submitted to HFHLRFP@nyshealth.org and technical questions should be submitted to grantsmanagement@nyshealth.org.