

RFP: 2022 Special Projects Fund

OVERVIEW

On September 9th, the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2022 Special Projects Fund. This Fund provides approximately \$2.5 million in total funding 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 are two funding cycles for the 2022 Special Projects Fund. The online inquiry form is due on October 7th for the first cycle of funding and on March 2, 2022 for the second cycle of funding. The full proposal (for invited applicants only) will be due on December 8th for the first cycle and on May 5, 2022 for the second cycle.

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.

Project durations vary and are commensurate with proposed project activities, but are typically in the range of 12-36 months.

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.

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 timeline for each funding cycle is outlined below:

	Funding Cycle One	Funding Cycle Two
Online Inquiry Form Due	October 7, 2021	March 2, 2022
Full Proposal Invitation/Declination Notification	Mid-November 2021	Mid-April 2022
Full Proposal Due Date (invited applicants only)	December 8, 2021	May 5, 2022
Award/Declination Notification	Mid-March 2022	Late September 2022

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