

Request for Proposals

2016 Special Projects Fund

Applicants must complete an online inquiry form to determine whether a proposed project fits the funding criteria. The online inquiry form and instructions are posted in the Grant Seekers/Open RFP section of the NYSHealth

website at www.NYSHealth.org. There are two deadlines for the online inquiry form: **Wednesday, November 4, 2015**, and **Thursday, April 7, 2016**. Selected organizations will be invited to submit full applications, which will be reviewed on a rolling basis with two deadlines: **Thursday, January 7, 2016**, and **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**. Both the online inquiry form and application must be submitted by 1 p.m. on their respective deadlines.

Deadlines:

Inquiry Form: November 4, 2015
Application: January 7, 2016

Inquiry Form: April 7, 2016
Application: May 25, 2016

I. About the Foundation

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) has a broad mission to improve the health of New York State residents, especially the most vulnerable. To achieve meaningful impact, the Foundation makes grants, informs health care policy and practice, and spreads effective programs that work to improve New York's health system.

II. Background

Most of NYSHealth's efforts are concentrated on focused priority areas. To ensure that we can also be flexible and responsive to other important opportunities, the Special Projects Fund supports projects that fit our mission but that are outside of those main priorities. In 2016, the Foundation's key grantmaking priorities will be: (1) **Building healthy communities** and (2) **Improving transparency and affordability to empower consumers**.

Special Projects Fund awards should be considered one-time, nonrenewable funding opportunities. Only in exceptional circumstances would NYSHealth consider making an additional grant for a project that has been previously funded.

Completed online inquiry forms are considered on a rolling basis until the deadline. Special Projects Fund grants are highly competitive. In past years, our resources have allowed us to support just 5% of the proposals that we receive.

III. Competitive Applications

Projects are coordinated interventions over a specified period of time to achieve measurable results. While projects that have impact within one organization or community are eligible, this RFP places emphasis on initiatives that have a large-scale statewide or regionwide impact on New York State's health care system.

After NYSHealth staff review the online inquiry forms, they will advise applicants on whether to submit full applications. For detailed guidelines, see the Special Projects Fund inquiry form instructions, located in the Grant Seekers/Open RFP section of the NYSHealth website at **www.NYSHealth.org**.

Although many projects will be eligible, competitive applications will also:

- Be immediate or time-sensitive opportunities for Foundation funds to make a difference.
- Demonstrate that the project will be sustainable after one-time grant support from NYSHealth (this is particularly relevant for projects that start new services). It is important to explain the business plan for sustaining the project.
- Include clearly stated evidence of need or opportunity, goals, timelines, objectives, and measurable outcomes.
- Have an effective plan for evaluating the measurable impact of the project and the funding received.
- Have strong potential for replication elsewhere in New York State.

IV. Projects Not Eligible for Funding

Requests not eligible for funding include:

- Projects that could be funded in our priority areas of building healthy communities or improving transparency and affordability to empower consumers.
- Projects that involve funding of ongoing services or activities similar to the normal activities undertaken by an organization.
- Core support/organizational infrastructure. Core support includes 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, political activities, or health education campaigns.
- Capital expenses.

V. Eligible Applicants

NYSHealth will consider proposals from existing nonprofit (501[c][3]) and for-profit organizations with a significant presence in New York State. Applicant organizations must show that proposed projects further the charitable mission of the New York State Health Foundation.

VI. Review Criteria

NYSHealth is committed to a fair and transparent proposal review process. Project applications are assessed by a panel comprising reviewers from across the State who possess a diverse set of expertise. NYSHealth's review panel will consider the following factors:

1. Clear articulation of need and a focus on vulnerable populations.
2. Likelihood that a project will accomplish its goals and have a measurable impact.
3. The experience, potential, and readiness of the applicant organization to complete the project successfully.
4. Sustainability of the project activities after NYSHealth funds expire (when appropriate), and ability of the applicant to use a grant to leverage other potential funds.
5. Potential for replication.
6. Degree of creativity or innovation exhibited by the project.
7. Clarity of the proposal in making the case that the initiative represents a special opportunity for NYSHealth funding.

VII. Budget

Projects will be assessed for the appropriateness of budget as it relates to the proposed scope of work and timeline. Funding requests can range from \$50,000 to \$400,000. Special Projects Fund grants are typically in the \$250,000 range. Funds requested must be commensurate with the work proposed.

VIII. Application Process

Initial Inquiry: Prior to submitting a full application, Special Projects Fund applicants are required to complete an online inquiry form to determine whether their projects fit the funding criteria. The inquiry form and instructions are available in the Grant Seekers/Open RFP section of the NYSHealth website at **www.NYSHealth.org**. For additional information about the Special Projects Fund and the application process, please consult **Frequently Asked Questions**. We also encourage you to read about previously funded projects in the Our Grantees section of the NYSHealth website.

Programmatic questions should be e-mailed to **specialprojectsfund@nyshealth.org**. Questions regarding the submission process should be e-mailed to **grantsmanagement@nyshealth.org**.