



Improving the state of
New York's health

October 2025

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Request for Proposals

2026 Special Projects Fund

As a first step, all applicants must complete a letter of inquiry form (LOI). Please visit the [Apply for Funding](#) section of our website to find detailed LOI submission instructions, a link to our applicant portal, and frequently asked questions (FAQs).

The Special Projects Fund will hold one open call for applications in 2026. **The deadline for the LOI is November 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**

I. About the Foundation

The New York Health Foundation (NYHealth) has a broad mission to improve the health of all New Yorkers, especially people of color and others who have been historically marginalized. 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 and make it more equitable.

II. Background

The Foundation concentrates most of our grantmaking in three strategic priority areas: [Primary Care](#); [Healthy Food, Healthy Lives](#); and [Veterans' Health](#). We also engage in responsive grantmaking through the Special Projects Fund.

Amid the changing federal policy landscape, NYHealth remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting innovative projects that help improve the health of all New Yorkers. NYHealth's Special Projects Fund is specifically designed to support organizations and timely, evidence-based projects that respond to the current moment and address important and emerging health challenges and threats. [Please refer to our FAQ for more information about navigating changes in the policy landscape and funding eligibility.](#)

We seek to partner with a wide range of organizations implementing projects that can improve health at the local, regional, or statewide levels. Special Projects Fund grants are highly competitive. In past years, our resources have allowed us to support only about 5% of the proposals that we receive. The most competitive applications are requests for projects and initiatives that have strong potential for replication, scaling, and/or implications for statewide policy and systems change.

Special Projects Fund awards are one-time, nonrenewable funding opportunities. Only in certain circumstances would NYHealth consider making an additional grant for a project that has been previously funded.

Proposals that fall under our three priority areas (Primary Care; Healthy Food, Healthy Lives; and Veterans' Health) are not eligible for consideration under the Special Projects Fund.

See a list of our [past Special Projects Fund Recipients](#).

Deadlines

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Due Date:
November 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**Full Proposal Invitation/LOI
Declination Notification:**
January 2026

Full Proposal Due Date (invited
applicants only):
February 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Award/Declination Notification:
June 2026



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III. Eligibility and Review Criteria

Projects should provide a clearly specified timeframe and metrics for measuring results. Although projects that have impact within one organization or community are eligible, this request for proposals (RFP) places emphasis on initiatives that have a large-scale regional or statewide impact on New York State's health system.

NYHealth is committed to a fair and transparent proposal review process. All applications are reviewed by Foundation staff. The staff decide which applicants will move into the next stage, and selected applicants receive an invitation to submit a full proposal for review. Proposals are evaluated by staff and a panel of community leaders from across the State with a wide range of experience and expertise. Selected proposals are forwarded to NYHealth's Board of Directors, which makes the final funding decision. Applications are reviewed using the criteria below.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant is a nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) IRS designation or a for-profit organization with a significant ability to have impact in New York State.
- Project directly aligns with NYHealth's mission and focuses on improving the health of New Yorkers who have been historically marginalized.
- Applicant clearly articulates a pressing community need, an opportunity to address a gap, and a strategy to create long-term, systemic change.
- Applicant clearly articulates goals, timelines, objectives, and measurable outcomes.
- Project has an effective evaluation plan, including measures for local, regional, or statewide impact.
- Applicant has experience, potential, and readiness to complete the project successfully.
- Applicant builds collaboration among organizations and demonstrates meaningful community input and participation in the design and implementation of the project.
- Project has a strong potential for replication elsewhere in New York State or nationally.
- Applicant articulates how the project will be financially and programmatically sustained after the one-time grant support from NYHealth ends.
- Applicant demonstrates how and why the initiative represents a special opportunity for NYHealth funding.
- Applicant demonstrates a degree of creativity or innovation.



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Projects Not Eligible for Funding:

- Projects that fall under any of the other NYHealth priority areas: Primary Care; Healthy Food, Healthy Lives; and Veterans' Health.
- Projects that involve funding ongoing services or activities similar to the normal activities undertaken by an organization.
- Requests for core support/organizational infrastructure. Core support includes baseline operating and administrative costs, board development, staff development unrelated to the project, and fundraising activities.
- Requests to backfill loss of federal, State, or City grant award funding or other revenue losses.
- 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.
- Capital expenses (e.g., buildings, vehicles, rent).

IV. Budget

Funding requests must be commensurate with the work proposed and will be evaluated based on the scope and timeline of the project. Funding requests can range from \$50,000 to a maximum of \$200,000.

V. Application Process

Step 1: Special Projects Fund applicants are first required to apply through an LOI process to determine whether their project fits the funding criteria. [View LOI form and instructions.](#)

Step 2: After reviewing all LOIs, NYHealth staff members will invite selected applicants to submit a full proposal. Selected applicants will be e-mailed specific submission instructions.

For additional information about the Special Projects Fund, the application process, and funding guidelines, please consult our [FAQs](#). We also invite you to learn more about [previously funded projects](#) on the NYHealth website.

Programmatic questions should be e-mailed to specialprojectsfund@nyhealthfoundation.org. Technical questions regarding the online application process should be e-mailed to the Grants Management department at gm@nyhealthfoundation.org.

NOTE: All updates and notifications will come from noreply@salesforce.com. Please make sure to check your junk/spam folders and edit your filters, as these e-mails often get redirected.