

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH): Getting Further Faster (GFF) Year 3

Request For Proposal: Frequently Asked Questions

Submitted Questions

- 1. In order to be eligible, does the applying agency have to be a previous recipient of Getting Further Faster funding in the past or is the funding separate meaning eligible for new applicants?**

For this year's proposal you do not have to have previously been funded.

- 2. The organization I work for is currently implementing a SDOH program using a platform to screen members for SDOH needs and provide closed loop referrals where needed. We have worked closely with our local health departments (LHDs)/local health improvement coalitions (LHICs) to identify community needs and resources which we are incorporating into this platform. Our company is technically considered for profit but is owned by 4 non-profit hospital systems. I am wondering if we may be a candidate to apply for your initiative?**

The nonprofit entities could be eligible to apply, however we are not focusing on individual patient social needs data and referrals, but rather population health and the roles of health departments and hospital community benefits (required) along with other coalition partners engaged in SDOH. If you think your organization/coalition can meet the data needs outlined in the RFP, then you could be eligible to apply.

Questions From Webinar Session

General Application Questions

- 1. Is the money considered primarily to be used for evaluation? Or are you doing the evaluation? What are restrictions on how we can use the \$120K. What activities does the budget cover? Are there any limitations on activities?**

Organizations/coalitions should propose budgets that will outline what it will take on staff time and other activities to meet the deliverables that are outlined in the RFP. Provide a detailed fixed price per deliverable budget, including detailed projected costs for the completion of the project. Note that proposed costs must be broken down by two budget periods: 1) February 15, 2023, to July 31, 2023, and 2) August 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Note that funding for the August 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, timeframe is contingent on CDC approval of a no-cost extension for this project. This project is intended to end on or about December 31, 2023. A budget narrative must accompany the budget and indicate the costs associated with each proposed activity. Both the budget and budget narrative must be submitted in Excel files. Appendix C in the RFP is a list of unallowable costs. For full budget guidance please refer to the full RFP.

- 2. Is it a must to have an executed a program before you can apply?**

Yes, this is not an implementation grant. This grant is to conduct a retrospective evaluation using previously collected data.

- 3. Is there an anticipated length of characters/pages, etc. for the RFP?**

There are no character/page/word limits on the application.

4. How many more future rounds will there be for this project?

Currently, this is the last year anticipated for this funding opportunity.

SDoH Related Questions

5. If you are a first-time applicant, can you focus on any area within the five SDOH areas outlined in the RFP? May a project address multiple of the SDOH categories or must it focus on just one?

Yes, any of the five SDOH areas outlined in the RFP (the built environment, clinical-community linkages, food and nutrition security, social connectedness, and tobacco-free policies) would be acceptable to focus on. Applicants can also touch upon multiple SDOH areas within their project.

6. Do you consider Mental health to be a part of the SDOH continuum/Social Connectedness section? Is mental illness considered a chronic disease? Or are you referring to conditions like Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease?

Yes, mental health can be included as long as your work and outcomes data connects back to addressing social and determinants of health and chronic disease prevention in the community.

7. As a Clinically Integrated Network (for-profit) of a non-profit Children's Hospital, would we be eligible to apply? We work non-profit entities and community providers to address SDOH and mental health.

Not-for-profit entities are not eligible to apply. However, the non-profit hospital or another non-profit provider could, as long as your data pertains to population health outcomes related to your SDOH work. Individual patient social needs data and referral are not acceptable. health departments and hospital community benefits. If you think your organization can meet the data needs outlined in the RFP, then you could be eligible to apply.

8. Could a school system serve as the non-profit partner or is it strictly a non-profit healthcare system?

A school system can apply, however, coalitions/partnerships must include a significant relationship with a non-profit healthcare system as well as a local or state health department.

9. Do health care systems have to include hospitals?

Yes, at least one hospital must be included in the application, along with a local and/or state health department.

Data Questions

10. What kind of data does an organization need to be able to share about their projects? What types of data collection is eligible? For example, community surveys, hospital discharge data, birth and death data, qualitative community data.

This initiative will be collecting several types of evaluation data, which includes information about costs for starting up, implementing and sustaining the SDOH initiative(s) and outcomes of the initiative(s). This includes sharing deidentified data about the people who were reached by the SDOH-relevant initiative(s); the types of services they received; the dose of those

services; and any available outcomes. Outcomes can range from increased physical activity to self-rated behavior improvements, among others. It could also be the identified clinical data in terms of keeping up with recommended appointments for disease management all the way to improved clinical outcomes, such as blood pressure, and so on. It really is a range, and it will depend on the type of initiative that you are including in the project for evaluation.

11. If we have access to Medicaid Claims data but are unable to share that data directly, is it acceptable for us to perform the data analysis, answering any questions the project may have about that data?

Yes, in the past this has worked where there may have been limitations on what can be shared. Sometimes partnerships have shared evaluation reports or data from presentations at national conferences or shared draft manuscripts where the partnership has already analyzed and summarized the data. RTI has experience executing data use agreements and can provide details from the IRB approval to organizations that may need assistance facilitating data sharing.

12. Confirming that the data collection can be collected by either the nonprofit healthcare site or the state/local health department.

Partnerships will be pulling from data systems that already exist, and data that has already been collected. The intent is not to require new data collection as part of this evaluation. Data that's already in house, whether collected by one or multiple partners, is of interest. The partners that collected the data should be involved in the evaluation, are able to share the data, and can answer any questions that we may have about the data.

13. If we are a nonprofit health system that has a SDOH initiative in place with 12 months of recent data, but not robust partnership with local health department, can this be the focus of an application if we propose to enhance the initiative to include such a partnership?

This opportunity is focused on looking at what those partnerships with state and local health departments have done, addressing SDoH in those specific areas that have already existed. You are still eligible to apply, however reviewers will favor applications where there is already a partnership in place with state and/or local health departments engaged in the SDOH work described in your application.

14. Our project has been implemented just one year and will be in the second year of operations this year. Would we be submitting data just from year 1 of the project or would we also be submitting data from 2023?

For this project you would submit the data that has already been collected for evaluation, not data that is to be collected in the future, including in 2023.

15. Would implementing data sharing between partners in a coalition (focusing on SDOH data already collected) be eligible as a budgeted grant activity?

If data sharing between partners in the coalition is an activity that would be needed to be able to submit the data to RTI, yes. Efforts that directly support the compilation and submission of data to RTI towards the objectives of the grant would be allowable costs, except for allowed costs described and cited in the RFP.

16. Do you have the lessons learned from previous years (Year 1 and Year 2)?

<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/programs-impact/sdoh/pdf/GFF-eval-brief-508.pdf>