

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Convening of Indian Country Congenital Syphilis Taskforce

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Release Date: November 6, 2023

Due Date: November 17, 2023

For questions about the Request for Applications (RFA), contact Rebekah Horowitz, Director of STI Programs at rhorowitz@naccho.org.

Summary Information

Project Title: Coordination of Indian Country Regional Syphilis Partnerships Summits

Source of Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NOA Award No.: 6 NU38OT000306-05-05

Funding Amount: Up to \$100,000

Estimated Period of Performance: Approximately 9 months

Point of Contact for Questions: Rebekah Horowitz, rhorowitz@naccho.org

Key Dates

Event	Date
RFA Release	Monday, November 6 th
Application Submission Deadline	Friday, November 17 th at 11:59 PM PT
Anticipated Award Notification	Wednesday, November 23 rd
Project Period Starts	Approximately December 15, 2023
Project Period Ends	July 31, 2024

Overview

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments (LHDs) across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work to protect and improve the health of all people and all communities. NACCHO provides capacity-building resources that support LHD leaders in developing and implementing public health policies and practices to ensure communities have access to the vital programs and services that protect them from disease and disaster. Additionally, NACCHO engages with federal policymakers on behalf of LHDs to ensure adequate resources, appropriate public health legislation, and sensible policies are in place to address the myriad of public health challenges facing communities.

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **NACCHO is pleased to offer a funding opportunity to support the convening of an Indian Country Congenital Syphilis Taskforce. This taskforce will bring together individuals from tribal, state, and local public health as well as national organizations to address the unique barriers and follow up to care and provide technical support and advocacy based on the input of its membership.** Through this funding opportunity, NACCHO will provide up to \$100,000 to one (1) organization to plan, convene, and support the taskforce.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, November 17th at 11:59 PM PT and selections will occur by Wednesday, November 23rd. See *Application Instructions* for further detail.

Background

American Indian/Alaska Native communities are disproportionately affected by syphilis. The national rate of primary and secondary syphilis among American Indian/Alaska Native persons is the highest of any race/ethnicity at 47 per 100,000, more than 4x higher than Whites, representing an increase of over 400% since 2017. Since 2019, congenital syphilis among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) persons has been the highest of any race/ethnicity. As of 2021, the rate was 385 per 100,000 live births, or 1 in every 260 live births to AI/AN mothers.

Congenital syphilis response in all communities is complex and resource intensive. This is particularly true in AI/AN communities, which are often overlaid across tribal and non-tribal jurisdictions and may

also be in very rural locations far from prenatal care. As a result, ending the epidemic of congenital syphilis in AI/AN communities (Indian Country) depends on multiple health entities: tribal, federal, state, and county. Each entity has its own roles, strengths, and limitations but they must work in unison to close systemic gaps in prenatal care and syphilis case management and maximize the proportion of patients who are promptly diagnosed and successfully treated. These challenges are expected to be exacerbated by the Bicillin-LA drug shortages that will result in longer and more complex treatments for those with syphilis and is the only treatment for those with syphilis who are also pregnant.

Goals, Activities, & Requirements

The primary goal of this RFA is to support the planning, convening, and advocacy of the Indian Country Congenital Syphilis Taskforce. This taskforce will supplement the work of the Federal Syphilis Taskforce, which is working to prevent and control syphilis across the United States, including in Indian Country. The taskforce will have a targeted approach to congenital syphilis in AI/AN communities. The goal will be to develop an action plan to address the needs and concerns to address congenital syphilis that are particular to Indian Country.

- Applicants will be expected to identify, recruit, and orient participants in the taskforce which is likely to include organizations on the national level as well as regional or local participants.
- Support or convene monthly virtual meetings of the Taskforce with minutes

Required deliverables will be finalized as part of the contracting process, but will likely include:

- Convene monthly Taskforce meetings.
- Monthly meeting agenda.
- Monthly meeting notes.
- Final report with action steps and strategy to implement them.

Project Support

NACCHO will participate in the Taskforce, and support identification and outreach to state and local health department staff who are identified to participate in the Taskforce.

Eligibility, Use of Funding, & Contract Terms

This RFA is open to individuals and non-profit organizations. Applicants must be able to agree to NACCHO's standard contract language, which can be found [here](#) if needed, and must have an active registration with [SAM.gov](#).

Examples of how funding can be used include: staff time spent on planning and convening meetings and developing report; modest incentives for Taskforce participation; contracts for facilitation; graphic design and printing (e.g., of dissemination materials); and/or indirect and fringe benefit costs. Additional information on allowable expenses can be found in the [Budget Guidance](#).

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored in accordance with the following **criteria (out of 20 points)**:

- 1. Appropriateness of Organization, Program, and Population (20 points)**
 - Mission and operations (in particular, whether the organization understands the American Indian communities that are the focus of the taskforce).
 - Applicant comes from or has historic documented ability to work with populations that would benefit from the Indian Country Congenital Syphilis Taskforce.

- Experience with the activities included in the RFA.
- Meaningful engagement of American Indian/Alaska Natives over time.

Application Instructions

To apply for this funding opportunity:

- Complete the [Budget Template](#) and [Budget Narrative](#). If you plan to offer incentives to participants, you will also need to review, complete, and submit the [Gift Card and Incentive Approval Form](#). See the [Budget Guidance](#) for additional instructions on completing the Budget Template and Budget Narrative.
- Complete all documents required for a complete **contracting package**, including:
 - [Contract Cover Sheet](#)
 - [Certification of Non-debarment](#)
 - [FFATA Form](#)
 - [Vendor form](#)
 - [W9](#)
 - Proof of active registration with SAM.gov (*see question 4 in the Contract Cover Sheet*)
 - If applicable, proof of fringes and/or indirect costs (if higher than 10%) in the budget (*see the Contract Cover Sheet and Budget Guidance documents for more information*)
 - If applicable, letters of support from partner organizations
- Submit the Application Form, Budget Template, Budget Narrative, and Contracting Package by Friday, November 17th, 2023, at 11:59 PM PT by emailing rhowitz@naccho.org with the subject line "Submission-- Indian Country Congenital Syphilis Taskforce"