



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Strengthening Local Public Health among Afghan Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Communities

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Release Date: January 3, 2023

Due Date: February 10, 2023

For questions about the Request for Applications, contact Kalikidan Gizaw (RIM@naccho.org)

Summary Information

Project Title: Strengthening Local Public Health among Afghan Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Communities

Proposal Due Date and Time: February 10, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET

Selection Announcement Date: February 24, 2023

Informational Webinar: January 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Funding Amount: Up to \$140,000

Estimated Period of Performance: 12 months (upon execution of the contract)

Point of Contact: Kalikidan Gizaw (RIM@naccho.org)

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 University of Minnesota National Resource Center for Refugee, Immigrants, and Migrants ([NRC-RIM](#)), NACCHO is pleased to offer a funding opportunity to LHDs and community-based organizations **to collaborate to strengthen public health services targeting Afghan parolees, refugees, immigrants, and migrants.**

Background

Due to the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis, tens of thousands of Afghan refugees are rapidly arriving in the United States. Upon arrival, Afghan families are often connected to resettlement agencies that assist them temporarily in securing housing, connection to health services, case management, employment, immigration services, and educational programs. However, these displaced communities need ongoing access to wraparound services to cover their basic needs including physical and mental health once resettlement support expires. There is a great and expanding need for culturally appropriate health communication resources in Dari, Pashto, and Farsi. As a result of the trauma caused by this crisis health agencies must also be prepared to

provide culturally competent mental health services such as counseling, in addition to linkages to social and other services.

As chief health strategists for local jurisdictions, LHDs can build and coordinate a network of partners, and act as an entry point for Afghan refugees to a wide range of needed community based and governmental services. To ensure streamlined access to a continuum of culturally and linguistically competent public health services for Afghan and other refugees, immigrants, and migrants, LHDs need strong and sustained community engagement and outreach structures, effective linkage and referral relationships with diverse community partners, experienced human resources drawn from the communities they serve, and planning, evaluation, and financial management capacity. **This funding opportunity will build capacity of LHDs to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities and community-based organizations for improved Afghan community public health.**

The goals of this project are to:

1. Build and sustain Afghan community engagement and community health planning structures
2. Support Afghan community health assessment processes, focusing on community needs for sustainable approaches to address priority public health needs, including vaccine hesitancy, and health education
3. Support development of referral and linkage systems to Afghan friendly community health education, and health and social services

Funding Overview and Timeline

NACCHO will issue contracts of **up to \$140,000 to up to five sites Under Tier One** that have existing collaborations between LHDs and RIM serving community-based organizations, including Afghan- refugee serving community- based organization(s) developed to address emerging infectious disease, including COVID-19, and **up to \$200,000 per site to up to four LHDs under Tier Two** to implement activities to support jurisdictions with large or growing populations of Afghan refugees in the following states: Maryland, Virginia, Texas, California, and Washington.

Applications must be submitted by **February 10, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET** to RIM@naccho.org and selections will occur on or around **February 24, 2023**. All necessary information regarding the project and application process is outlined in this Request for Applications (RFA).

NACCHO will host an **optional informational webinar** for potential applicants on **January 6, 2023**, to review the RFA and respond to questions. Please note that no new information will be shared during the webinar and applicants do not need to wait for this optional webinar to begin

or submit applications. To register for the webinar, visit [here](#). Questions may be submitted in advance to RIM@naccho.org.

Key Application Dates

Event	Date/Time
Informational Webinar	January 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.
Application Deadline	February 10, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET
Anticipated Notification Date	February 24, 2023
Project Period	12 months (upon execution of the contract)

Eligibility and Contract Terms

Tier One: Eligibility is limited to existing collaborations between LHDs and RIM serving community-based organizations, including Afghan- refugee serving community- based organization(s), developed to address emerging infectious disease, including COVID-19.

Tier Two: Eligibility is limited to existing collaborations between LHDs and RIM serving community-based organizations, including Afghan- refugee serving community- based organization(s), to implement activities in jurisdictions with large or growing populations of Afghan refugees within Maryland, Virginia, Texas, California, and Washington.

Applicants should plan for 12 months of project implementation. Projects will begin on the date of contract execution. NACCHO will pay the selected project areas upon receipt of deliverables per the payment schedule identified in the scope of work contained in the contract. Please note that NACCHO reserves the right to make changes to the project timeline and payment schedule if necessary.

NACCHO standard contract language can be found [here](#) if needed.

Project Expectations and Requirements

This project seeks to build capacity of LHDs to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities and community-based organizations for improved Afghan community public health. Awardees will be expected to design, implement, and evaluate activities that meet the following criteria:

- **Focus on Afghan refugee and immigrant populations:** Activities should focus on building community networks that facilitate seamless access to health and social services for Afghan refugees.
- **Community Engagement:** A partnership between a LHD and one or more community-based organizations that serves Afghan refugees and immigrants, or with Afghan community leaders within RIM populations, should guide all aspects of their project.

- **Community Assessment:** Activities should be informed by recent assessment of Afghan refugee community priority public health needs.
- **Promising or Evidence-Based Practice:** Interventions should be informed by evidence and/or data. This can include an adaptation of an existing, evidence-based strategy or an innovative strategy that is designed using evidence-based principles, theories, or frameworks. Applicants may also propose emerging practices that have been implemented and appear promising in other jurisdictions but that have not yet been evaluated.
- **Sustainability:** The project should be sustainable—that is, activities should result in initiation of expanded public health efforts with Afghan refugee communities that have the potential to be sustained beyond the project end date, e.g., development of a community advisory board or other community engagement structures and relationships that will facilitate ongoing collaborations beyond the project

Evaluation

NACCHO will work with funded applicants to design and implement individual project and overall program evaluation efforts and will provide technical assistance to funded sites to support monitoring and evaluation. Each site will be expected to work with NACCHO to develop an evaluation plan and collect the necessary data to answer key evaluation questions.

Summary of Required Grant Activities to be Covered by Award

During the project period, awardees will:

- Participate in a virtual kick-off meeting
- Finalize a workplan and evaluation plan
- Implement the workplan and evaluation plan
- Develop a sustainability plan
- Collaborate with NACCHO and UMN-RIM to collect, analyze, interpret, and synthesize evaluation findings
- Collaborate with NACCHO and UMN-RIM to share ongoing lessons learned and findings through reports, webinars, and limited peer-to-peer technical assistance with other jurisdictions interested in learning more about the innovation or improvement
- Participate in regularly scheduled project conference calls and other potential project or dissemination meetings, as appropriate

Summary of key project deliverables for funded sites:

- Final workplan
- Final evaluation plan
- Clean, aggregate summaries of all data collected under the evaluation plan (e.g., Excel worksheets of collected data, summaries of qualitative data analysis)

- Electronic copy of written protocols, procedures, tools, or job aids that were used to implement/guide the innovation or improvement and which other jurisdictions might benefit from seeing
- Written summaries of results and lessons learned
- Final sustainability plan

Support and Technical Assistance

NACCHO will provide ongoing support to awardees in the form of:

- Provision of templates for reports/plans/dissemination/summary products
- Technical assistance via conference calls, webinars, or site visits to facilitate project planning, implementation, data collection and analysis, and reporting
- Connection to national, state, and local subject matter experts
- Program and project evaluation planning, development of data collection tools, and support for data management and analysis
- Synthesis of evaluation findings across jurisdictions

Application Instructions

1. Cover page and project abstract (1 page)

- Include project title; applicant organization name and address; primary point of contact name, email address, and phone number; requested funding amount; and <250 word project summary.

2. Statement of Need (1-2 pages)

- Describe the demographics of your jurisdiction, including the size, location, and growth of the Afghan community. What services currently exist in your jurisdiction to serve refugees, immigrants, and migrants in general, and Afghan refugees in particular?
- Describe the challenges and barriers Afghan refugees in your jurisdiction are facing as they integrate into your community, citing any evidence you have of these challenges (e.g., needs assessments, focus groups, surveillance data, stakeholder reports, etc.).
- What impact do these challenges have on the health of their community?

3. Partnerships (1-2 pages)

- Describe existing partnerships between the LHD and organizations or leaders within the Afghan community. What ongoing structures are in place to facilitate communication and engagement?
- How will your LHD/community-based partnership jointly engage on an ongoing basis with the Afghan community to support their meaningful participation in program planning and implementation?

4. Needs Assessment (1-2 pages)

- Describe how you will go about learning about Afghan community public health needs and priorities on an ongoing basis. How will you partner with the Afghan community in this effort?

5. Activities (2-3 pages)

- Describe activities you have conducted in the past year in collaboration with LHD(s) and/or community partner(s) to address emerging infectious disease within RIM communities, including Afghan refugee communities. What have you learned from these activities that you will apply to this work?
- Describe your program strategies for
 - Building and sustaining Afghan community engagement and community health planning structures
 - Supporting Afghan community health assessment processes, focusing on community needs for sustainable approaches to address priority public health needs, including vaccine hesitancy, and health education
 - Supporting development of referral and linkage systems to Afghan friendly community health education, and health and social services
 - Explain how these strategies will be culturally and linguistically appropriate, and how they will be accessible to persons of low-literacy and low-English proficiency

6. Evaluation (1-2 pages)

- Describe how you will document implementation of this/these activities to inform replication and scale-up efforts in other jurisdictions.
- Describe your current capacity to evaluate this project, including your ability to develop an evaluation plan, design and implement data collection tools, and to collect and analyze data.
- What kinds of technical assistance will you need to support evaluation of this project?

7. Organizational Capacity (1 page)

- Describe your capacity to manage this project. Which staff will be involved in this project, and why?
- Provide an overview of organizational roles in project implementation (i.e., what the applicant will do and what role your LHD or community partner(s) will play)

8. Budget

- Complete a proposed project budget using the [provided template](#), and provide a justification for your expected costs in [a budget narrative](#).

Please review the Budget Guidance document as you create your budget and budget narrative to ensure compliance with NACCHO's budgetary requirements.

9. Required Attachments

- Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Support from at least one community-based/LHD project partner.
- [Contract Cover Sheet](#)
- [Vendor Information Form](#)
- [Certification of Non-Debarment](#)
- [W-9](#)
- [FFATA data collection form](#)
- Proof of active registration with SAM.gov in accordance with an active Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number. Contracts cannot be initiated without an active registration. Applicants should submit a screenshot or PDF of their registration or proof of a pending registration under review as part of their application package. Registration can be done [here](#).

Please note that all required forms should be signed and dated within the past year.

Selection Criteria

NACCHO will review and score applications for this RFA in accordance with the following criteria (out of 100 points):

- Extent to which the applicant has conducted activities in the past year in collaboration with LHD(s) and/or community partner(s) to address emerging infectious disease within RIM communities, including Afghan refugee communities. (20 points)
- Extent to which proposed strategies are or will be responsive to Afghan refugee local needs and trends e.g., as identified through needs assessment (10 points)
- Extent to which proposed strategies are likely to result in sustainable and meaningful engagement of Afghan refugee community-based organizations and community members in health planning and implementation (30 points)
- Extent to which proposed strategies are likely to improve culturally and linguistically appropriate health linkages and referrals for Afghan refugees (30 points)
- Extent to which organization has the capacity and partnerships needed to ensure successful implementation of the proposed intervention or improvement (10 points)