

SIERRA HEALTH
FOUNDATION



RESPONSIVE GRANTS
Program

2019 RESPONSIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA

Sierra Health Foundation is a private philanthropy that forges new paths to promote health and racial equity in partnership with communities, organizations and leaders. We are committed to reducing health disparities through convening, educating and strategic grantmaking.

www.sierrahealth.org

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA CAREFULLY

THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Responsive grants are available to qualifying nonprofit organizations and public agencies that serve people living in Sierra Health Foundation's 26-county funding region (see map on page 3). Grants up to \$15,000 are available to support projects and activities that improve health and quality of life.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH AND RACIAL EQUITY

Sierra Health Foundation has a broad definition of health, believing there is much more to health than health care. Health is influenced by many factors, including socioeconomic conditions, environment, education, income, housing, neighborhood safety and other drivers of health outcomes – factors that have come to be known as the Social Determinants of Health. Where we live, work and play has a significant influence on our health.

Sierra Health Foundation supports efforts that address health and racial equity. Health equity means achieving the highest possible standard of health for all people and giving special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health, based on social conditions.¹ Racial equity “is the condition that would be achieved if one’s racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities, not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.”² Reducing health disparities is a key factor in striving toward better health for all and reflects the foundation’s commitment to

ensuring that people throughout our funding region have the opportunity to lead healthy lives.

Sierra Health Foundation has committed a total of \$500,000 to this program in 2019.

Through the Responsive Grants Program, Sierra Health Foundation will invest in communities and organizations that promote health and racial equity to address health disparities and the social determinants of health.

FUNDING FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

At least 30 percent of Responsive Grants Program funds will be available to support projects that benefit rural areas of Sierra Health Foundation’s funding region. The remaining funds will be available for activities benefitting urban areas and urban/rural areas.

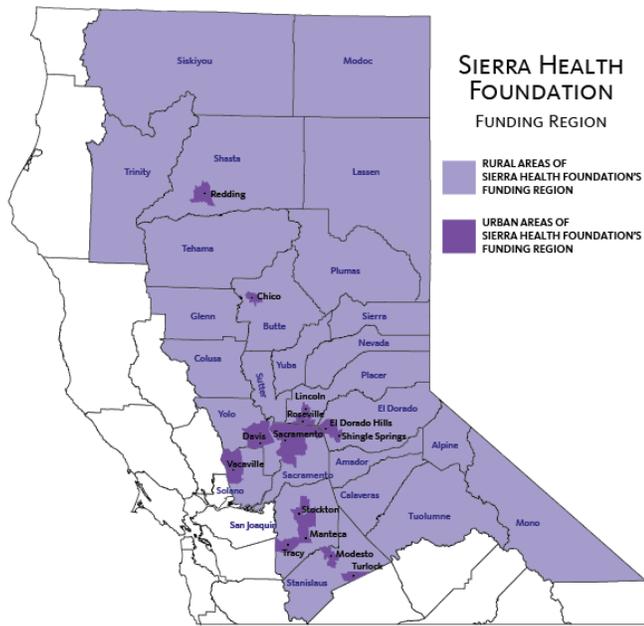
WHAT IS RURAL?

For purposes of this grant program, Sierra Health Foundation defines rural, including frontier, as a Medical Service Study Area (MSSA) that has a population density of 250 persons or less per square mile and has no incorporated area greater than 50,000 people.³ To determine if the geographic area to be served by your proposed project is rural, see the map on the following page, which shows the urban and rural MSSAs in Sierra Health Foundation’s funding region. If you need further clarification on your service area’s rural/urban designation, contact Sierra Health Foundation by sending an e-mail to rgp@sierrahealth.org.

1. Braveman, Paula. “What Are Health Disparities and Health Equity? We Need to Be Clear.” Public Health Reports. 2014 Supplement 2, Volume 129. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3863701/>

2. <http://www.racialequityresourceguide.org/about/glossary>

3. MSSA is a designation defined by the California Health Manpower Policy Commission. As a general rule, MSSAs are deemed to be “rational service areas” for purposes of designating health professional shortage areas, medically underserved areas or medically underserved populations. An MSSA is composed of one or more complete census tracts. Sierra Health Foundation combines rural and frontier communities into its rural category for the purposes of this grant program. Source: California Health Manpower Policy Commission, California Rural Health Policy Council, a program of the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Sierra Health Foundation will fund nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are designated a 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization. Sierra Health Foundation also will fund public agencies. Fiscal sponsors for entities that are not qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to apply. Fiscal sponsors may apply on behalf of more than one organization or collaborative group.

For applicants that are not fiscal sponsors, only one grant proposal per eligible 501(c)(3) organization or public agency will be considered. This limitation applies to multiple departments of a government agency or university, and multiple chapters of an organization using the same tax exempt ID number. **If we receive more than one application per eligible applicant organization, we only will consider the first application received. Fiscal sponsors are exempt from this limitation.**

Proposed projects or activities must benefit people living in one or more of the 26 counties of Sierra Health Foundation’s funding region (see map).

Current Responsive Grants Program grantees as of January 31, 2019, are not eligible to apply this round. Current RGP

grantees are those whose grant activities have not been completed and whose final grant report has not been submitted to Sierra Health Foundation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The most competitive applications will:

- Promote health and racial equity and address health disparities;
- Support projects that improve health and quality of life;
- Demonstrate approaches to solving issues that impact health, such as education, employment, housing, environment, neighborhood safety and other drivers of health outcomes;
- Clearly explain why the applicant organization and, where appropriate, partner agencies are best suited to be successful with the proposed project;
- Clearly and specifically by the use of data describe the target population;
- Make a data-driven case for need related to the target population;
- Leverage resources and/or demonstrate sustainability, if applicable;
- Include a reasonable project scope and budget, based on Responsive Grants Program parameters; and
- Describe the anticipated difference the project would make.

Additionally, the geographic and demographic diversity of the region and variety of issue areas will be considered in the selection process.

FUNDING INFORMATION

- The maximum grant amount is \$15,000. Applicants may request less than \$15,000.
- The grant term will begin July 1 or later and may be up to one year.
- Grants for capital equipment will be considered.

- Up to 15% of direct costs may be requested for indirect costs.
- Those receiving awards will be required to submit a final narrative report 30 days following the end of the funding period, reporting on activities and outcomes included in the proposal, as well as a financial report.

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

Sierra Health Foundation does not fund:

- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Individuals
- Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- 509(a)(3) supporting organizations
- 501(c)(4) organizations or lobbying activities

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE WILL CONSIDER FUNDING

These are just some examples of types of projects that would be considered for funding. What you propose is not limited to these examples.

- Increasing employment and economic development opportunities for disconnected populations through new partnerships between workforce agencies and service providers
- Developing and implementing plans and policies that create safe and healthy neighborhoods, promote aging-in-place, and/or smart growth.
- Increasing access to social and emotional health services for children, youth or young adults through establishing new service networks and partnerships
- Improving academic outcomes for justice-involved youth through the establishment of a countywide public-private collaborative
- Development of policy or a system's practice that addresses the housing shortage for populations experiencing poor health outcomes
- Promoting clean air and preventing pollution through education or enforcement of relevant air quality policies
- Increasing access to afterschool civic engagement opportunities for youth of color most at-risk to be victims of gun violence
- Strengthening Sustainable Communities Strategy in a regional transportation plan that demonstrates how the region will promote active transportation and public transit options and include traditionally underrepresented communities
- Increasing access to food or housing/shelter services for low-income or homeless populations
- Increasing access to and quality of health services
- Improving management of chronic diseases in high-risk populations
- Improving accessibility to high-quality, healthy food in low-income neighborhoods
- Increasing physical activity among youth in a rural community
- Improving job skills among underemployed populations
- Reducing injuries among specific populations, such as older adults
- Connecting eligible populations to available local, state and federal resources
- Adoption of policies designed to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke in multi-unit housing where low-income residents live

Examples of approaches that could be used to implement projects (proposed approaches are not limited to these examples):

- Coalition Building/Partnership Development
- Policy Development
- Leadership Development
- Community Engagement, Organizing and Advocacy
- Research/Participatory Action Research
- Multi-Ethnic/Multi-Racial Collaboration
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Communications/Outreach and Education
- Youth Engagement, Organizing and Advocacy
- Peer Learning
- Direct Service

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 18, 2019, at 1 p.m.

APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

Early June

APPROXIMATE DATE FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Late June

To be considered, your proposal must be submitted by 1 p.m. on March 18. Proposals received after the due date/time will not be reviewed. Submission guidelines follow. Submission before the deadline date is advised in case you need help with your online application. We may not be able to respond to your requests for help on the deadline date.

PROPOSERS' CONFERENCES

Participation in the proposers' webinar or proposers' conference is recommended, though not required. Registration links for the proposers' webinar and proposers' conference are posted on Sierra Health Foundation's web site, www.sierrahealth.org/rgp. The content of the conferences will be the same. Please review the application materials prior to the conference or webinar and have them with you during the event.

PROPOSERS' CONFERENCE WEBINAR:

Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A recording of the webinar and webinar slides will be posted on Sierra Health Foundation's web site. Register for the webinar by Feb. 5 at <https://www.sierrahealth.org/RGPWebinar>

PROPOSERS' CONFERENCE:

Feb. 11 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Register for the proposers' conference by Feb. 5 at 5 p.m.

www.sierrahealth.org/RGPConf

Gold Country Casino Hotel

4020 Olive Hwy

Oroville, CA 95966

IMPORTANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines.

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the guidelines below.
- Applications are due no later than March 18, 2019, at 1 p.m.
- Submit the application via our online grants portal, https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5483?SA=SNA&FID=35032 New users of the portal will need to create an account as the first step in the application process.
- For optimal functionality, use Internet Explorer on a PC or Safari on a Mac.
- On the portal, you may click “Save & Finish Later.” You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application. https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5483?SA=AM Use this link each time to return to your in-progress application.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an *).
- Submit all materials listed under “Application Materials Checklist” in PDF format.
- Upload all documents listed under “Application Attachments Checklist” below.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents, before submitting it. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- If you need help submitting your application, send an e-mail to rgp@sierrahealth.org with the subject line: RGP Online Help.
- If you are not a 501(c)(3) incorporated nonprofit organization or public agency, you may identify a 501(c)(3) entity to apply as your fiscal sponsor.

Send questions about this grant program and the application process to rgp@sierrahealth.org with the subject line:
RGP Question

APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Access the Responsive Grants Program application form at https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5483?SA=SNA&FID=35032

- Proposed budget – download the Proposed Budget Template in the Attachments section of the online application, fill it in and upload it.
- Proposed budget narrative – upload a narrative that explains your proposed expenditures.
- 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter (if not a government entity).
- Financial Report – must show organizational/institutional revenue and expenses for a full fiscal year (**not IRS form 990**).