

**CDC-RFA-DP21-2111: Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
Accelerator Plans
Informational Webinar
Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

Welcome

Good afternoon. I'm Terry O'Toole and I serve as head of the Program Development and Evaluation Branch in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, which is a Division within CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP).

Welcome to the informational webinar to discuss the new funding opportunity from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's - [CDC-RFA-DP21-2111 Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans](#).

During today's call we will provide an overview of the details of the grant, review the submission requirements, and conclude with time at the end to receive and answer your questions. Currently all lines are on mute. However, during the Q & A portion of the call, we will give you instructions on how to unmute your phone. You can also enter your questions in the "Chat" box.

Opening Remarks

I'd like to introduce a few folks joining me on the call today - Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, who will start us off and Dr. Laura Kettel Khan, Senior Scientist in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, who will serve as the moderator. Pam Render from the CDC Office of Grant Services is also on the call to answer any questions concerning budget or the award process.

With that, I'll turn it over to Dr. Hacker.

SDOH Domains of Focus

Hello, everyone. I am honored to be here today to participate in the informational call for the Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan notice of funding opportunity (NOFO).

As you all know, addressing chronic diseases is urgent. Six in 10 Americans live with at least one chronic disease, like heart disease and stroke, cancer, or diabetes. These and other chronic

diseases are the leading causes of death and disability in America, and they are also a leading driver of health care costs.

We also know that most chronic diseases can be prevented by eating well, being physically active, avoiding tobacco and excessive drinking, and getting regular health screening.

Our job is to help people and communities prevent chronic diseases and promote health and wellness for all. Chronic disease disproportionately impacts some populations. These groups experience higher rates of related death and illness. Much of the risk is due to the circumstances that surround these individuals where they live, work, and play, as well as systems and institutions that historically disadvantage many of these populations. These social determinants of health contribute to persistent chronic disease disparities across the United States.

Many chronic disease risk factors are influenced by social determinants. In our Center we are focusing on five social determinants we think we can influence

- Built environment
- Community-clinical linkages
- Food and Nutrition Security
- Social connectedness
- Tobacco-free policy

Interventions targeting social determinants of health have tremendous potential to narrow disparities across many chronic diseases by creating healthy environments and removing systemic and unfair barriers to practicing healthy behaviors.

Our Center has a passion for health equity across all chronic disease prevention areas. Health disparities are a problem, health equity is the goal, and social determinants of health are the pathway to drive meaningful change.

The work by our Center and recipients is of even greater urgency during the COVID-19 pandemic. While there is some cause for optimism with the rate of vaccine administration, COVID-19 is far from over.

We are excited about these new social determinants of health accelerator planning grants.

This funding opportunity will support grantees to develop multisector action plans that address the SDOH by accelerating action in state, local, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions that lead to improved chronic health conditions among Americans experience health disparities and inequality.

As Terry mentioned, this work is an important expansion of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's portfolio of programming to address the social determinants of health. Even though the grant will be managed in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, all divisions in the Center will be engaged and informed on the project as we develop a new model for cross-cutting, center-wide efforts.

The work you all do is imperative to address chronic disease, reduce health disparities, and achieve health equity. I want to personally thank you for your interest in this new funding opportunity, especially during such challenging times.

I would now like to hand the virtual microphone over to Laura who will walk us through the remainder of the presentation.

Grant Overview

Thank you for your comments, Dr. Hacker. Hello everyone, I'm Laura Kettel Khan. Now I will highlight some key elements of the NOFO.

Overview

- The purpose of this NOFO is to develop multisector accelerator plans to address the social determinants of health *to fast-track improvements in health and social outcomes related to chronic health conditions among population groups experiencing health disparities and inequity.*
- Awards will be made to approximately 20 state, local, tribal, or territorial jurisdictions
- Please note that it is a grant, not a cooperative agreement, so CDC technical assistance will be limited. There will only be two touch points over the 12-month project with award recipients – a kick-off call and mid-point check in.
- The award ceiling is \$125,000
- At least one territory and one tribe will be funded.

- To ensure geographic diversity, no more than three state and local applicants per HHS region will receive awards.

Also, direct assistance is not available through this NOFO, and cost sharing or matching is not required. The funding is not intended for research or the provision of clinical care. A complete list of funding restrictions is found in the NOFO.

Activities/Outcomes

This grant involves two primary activities:

- Convene and coordinate a leadership team consisting of multisectoral partners, and
- Develop an implementation-ready SDOH Accelerator Plan.

And two outcomes:

- Increased collaboration and engagement across multi-sector partners
- Complete implementation-ready action plan

Primary Outcome – Action Plan

Let's talk more about the primary outcome: the SDOH Accelerator Plan. This slide summarizes the required components that must be included within the plan that is developed.

I'd like to highlight a few aspects in particular:

- **Evaluation Plan**
 - The evaluation plan should describe the evaluation purpose, goals, evaluation questions, data collection methods, and how findings will be incorporated in implementation of the plan.
 - And, describe how the SDOH Accelerator Plan strategies and outcomes will be measured, with particular focus on the social and public health impact on the selected population(s).
- **Data Integration**
 - Describe existing data sources across partners.
 - Describe the process for monitoring and integrating data elements to create a comprehensive system for tracking selected population(s) resource utilization.
- **Implementation Plan**
 - Provide a budget for implementing the strategies and activities.

- Provide a work plan with a timeline to complete the proposed strategies and activities.
- **Sustainability/Funding Strategy**
 - Describe strategies to expand, diversify, and sustain implementation efforts, including funding.
- **Success Story**
 - Complete a success story on establishing, expanding, and coordinating multisector partners. The success story is required to include the following components: title; challenge; approach; results and at-a-glance.
 - Recipients can use CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion’s (NCCDPHP) [Success Stories application](#) to create the success story. This free tool provides step-by-step instructions to create a professionally designed 1-page success story.

I would like to emphasize that this action plan, called the SDOH Accelerator Plan, is the primary deliverable for this grant.

Application Information Transition

Now I’d like to cover some specific application information.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants that can apply for this funding opportunity include:

- State health departments or their bona fide agents
- Local health departments or their bona fide agents
- Health departments in the US Territories or their bona fide agents
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized) or Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)

Requirements

Next, I’ll review a few key components to be included in the project narrative of your application:

- First, applicants are asked to identify a community and population of focus.
- Applicants are required to identify a community and corresponding population disproportionately affected by disparities related to chronic disease. Results from a community health needs assessment (CHA) and/or state health needs

assessment (SHA) should be used to describe and support the selection of your population.

- Applicants must also identify the population(s) disproportionately affected by disparities related to chronic disease and related risk factors (e.g. particularly those who have been affected by poverty, lack economic resources including communities with high rates of income inequity or low employment opportunities, etc.) and use cited data sources to define and describe the population(s). You will need to describe how the SDOH Accelerator Plan will improve disparate chronic disease health outcomes related to the social determinants and contribute to enhancing resiliency of the tribe, community, or catchment area.
- Second, applicants are asked to select SDOH priority areas
 - You will be required to select two (2) from NCCDPHP target domains:
 - Food and nutrition security
 - Social connectedness
 - Community-clinical linkages
 - Tobacco-free policy
 - Built environment
 - You also have the option to propose an additional priority area from the [Healthy People 2030 domains](#). For these optional SDOH domains, the applicant must describe and justify how the proposed strategies and activities will improve health outcomes related to chronic and infectious health conditions. The proposed SDOH strategies and activities are subject to CDC approval.
- Lastly, applicants will need to identify a leadership team
The leadership team should employ a community based participatory approach that includes shared decision making and builds upon the collective assets of the community.
The leadership team should have diverse and inclusive membership consisting of the following:
 - At least two community/catchment area/tribal members that understand the distinct characteristics and culture of the selected population(s).

- A minimum of five leaders from different sectors (e.g., health, housing, transportation, food system) with the authority needed to accomplish the development of the implementation ready SDOH Accelerator Plan in the selected SDOH priority areas.

The NOFO provides a comprehensive list of examples of potential Leadership Team members.

It is VERY important to note that the project narrative is limited to **6 pages**. I would like to say this again as a point of emphasis, for this grant application, the project narrative is limited to 6 pages.

Evaluation and Monitoring

Given the duration and requirements of this grant:

- Applicants are **not** required to provide an evaluation and performance measurement plan nor a data management plan
- However, you will have to report on the performance measures outlined in the NOFO. Performance measures will be reported semi-annually. Your narrative and work plan need to describe:
 - Strategies and activities that are being implemented
 - Strategy and activity progress
 - Performance measures
- There will be two touch points with CDC and recipients – 1) a virtual kick-off meeting and 2) a mid-point virtual compliance meeting.

Review and Selection

- Applications will be reviewed in three phases.
 - Phase I: All eligible applications will be initially reviewed for eligibility and completeness by the CDC Office of Grants Services. Incomplete applications and applications that are non-responsive to the eligibility criteria will not advance through the review process. **Please note that a budget submission greater than \$125,000 is considered non-responsive.** Applicants will be notified that the application did not meet eligibility and/or published submission requirements.
 - Phase II: A merit review panel will evaluate complete and responsive applications according to the criteria listed in Section E. Application Review Information, subsection entitled “Criteria”.
 - Phase III: Recipients will be selected based on rank order list.
 - At least one territory

- At least one tribe
- No more than 3 state or local applicants per HHS region

Submission

- Letter of intent is not requested or required
- Last day to submit questions: **June 23, 2021** at 5:00 PM Eastern Time.
- Closing date: **July 6, 2021** at 11:59 PM Eastern Time
- Anticipated award date: **September 30, 2021**

If the application is not submitted by the deadline published in the NOFO, it will not be processed. Office of Grant Services personnel will notify the applicant that their application did not meet the deadline. The applicant must receive pre-approval to submit a paper application. Applications are due July 6th at 11:59 PM. US Eastern Standard Time through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Also, please note, in [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) the application submission is not concluded until successful completion of the validation process. After submission of your application package, applicants will receive a “submission receipt” email generated by grants.gov. Grants.gov will then generate a second e-mail message to applicants which will either validate or reject their submitted application package. This validation process may take as long as two business days.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the status of their application to ensure submission of their application package is complete and no submission errors exists.

To guarantee that you comply with the application deadline published in the NOFO, applicants are also strongly encouraged to allocate additional days prior to the published deadline to submit their application. Non-validated applications will not be accepted after the published application deadline date.

If you do not receive a validation email within two business days of application submission, please contact Grants.gov. Refer to the email message generated at the time of application submission for instructions on how to track your application or the Application User Guide, Version 3.0.

Questions and Answers

Before we open the line, I want to describe how we will handle the questions. To the extent possible, we will try to answer your questions on the call today. In the event that we are not able to provide an immediate answer, all of the questions and answers from today's call will be posted on the [NOFO FAQ web page](#) in the coming days. You should check that website frequently for new questions and answers.

Feel free to put your question in the chat or raise your hand and we will call on you to unmute and ask your question.

Final Reminders

As we wrap up the call, I just want to re-iterate a few key items:

- Letter of intent is not required
- NOFO Close date: **July 6th**
- Anticipated award date: **September 30th**
- Questions and responses from this call and those received at our email inbox: **SDOH2111@cdc.gov** will be posted to our NOFO website. Updates will post on Tuesdays.
- If technical difficulties are encountered at www.grants.gov, call or email the Grants.Gov Contact Center.

Closing

In closing, for technical assistance with Grants.gov, please refer to the "support" tab on Grants.gov.

Visit our NOFO webpage to access the updated Q/As.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/state-local-programs/sdoh-2111/SDOH-accelerator-planning.html>

Send your questions to SDOH2111@cdc.gov

Thank you for participating on today's call. This concludes the informational call for the funding opportunity titled *DP21-2111: Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans*.