



Strengthening Capacity for Equitable Data & Evaluation: Cohort 4

RFP Workshop
September 11, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome
- About the Data for Equity Funding Collaborative
- Request for Proposal
 - Goal and Overview
 - Application Process and Timeline
 - Self Reflection Tool
 - Proposal Evaluation Criteria
 - Application Questions
- Q&A



Data for Equity Team



Kelley Adcock
Interact for Health



Tiffany LaCour
HealthPath



Michelle Lydenberg
Interact for Health



Zohar Perla
bi3 Fund



Kiana Trabue
HealthPath



Jennifer Zimmerman
bi3 Fund



Introductions

Use the chat to introduce yourself:

- Name
- Organization
- One thing bringing you joy right now

Data for Equity Funders Collaborative



Data for Equity Cohorts 1-3



Our Question

What does it take to strengthen organizational and collective capacity for equitable data and evaluation to help ensure that all communities and people have a full, fair, and just opportunity for good health?

Our Why

We believe that every person—no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make—should have a full, fair, and just opportunity for good health. This means that community conditions and environments should promote good health, and no group is exposed to barriers that undermine their health and well-being.



The Process: Equitable Data & Evaluation

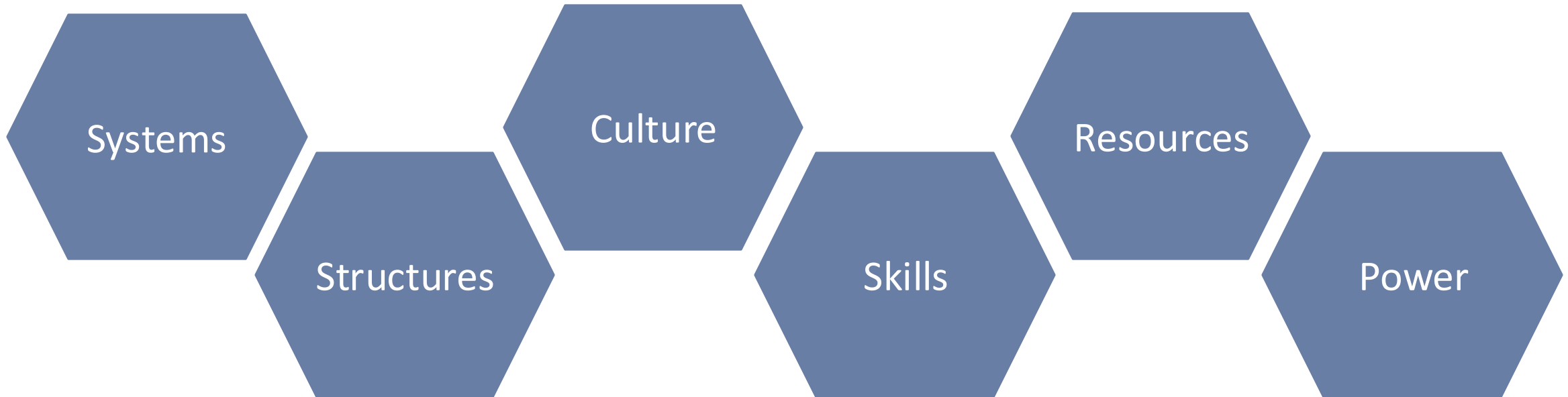
Improving health and closing gaps in outcomes requires examining the purpose and practice of data and evaluation efforts.

Decisions about how data is collected and interpreted—and whose voices are or are not included—are often inadvertently influenced by our values, biases, and worldviews.



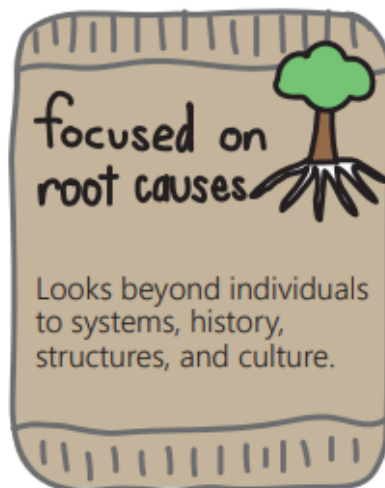
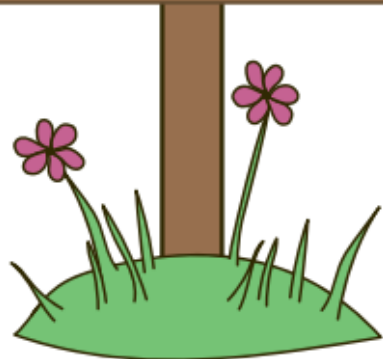
What is Capacity Building?

“The process of building and strengthening the...



...that organizations need to serve their communities.”

Seeds for an equitable
**Data and
Evaluation Garden**



Equitable data and evaluation means people and communities most affected by an issue help decide the questions and have a say in how information is gathered, understood, shared, and used to make changes that matter to them—helping to create a more fair and just world along the way.

What helps the garden grow?

Respect and listening

Lead with humility and curiosity.

Shared decision-making

Be clear about who decides what - and why.

Make participation doable

Offer time, flexibility, and real support (like stipends, food, and childcare).

Ongoing connection

Stay engaged between projects to sustain trust and progress.

Room to imagine

Create space for new ideas and future possibilities.

What gets in the way?

Limited resources & outside pressures

Short-term funding and shifting priorities can sidetrack community goals.

Moving too fast

Tight timelines and restricted funding leave little time to build trust or reflect.

Fear and risk

Concerns that data could be misused or impact services and funding.

Isolation or safety concerns

Without strong networks and care, people may feel alone or unsafe.

Information overload

Too much content can drown out community voice and local meaning.

Equitable Evaluation Questions

- There are many decision points in any data/evaluation project. The goal is to embed equity at each step along the way.

Who is defining the goals and what success looks like?

Who is developing the questions and project design?

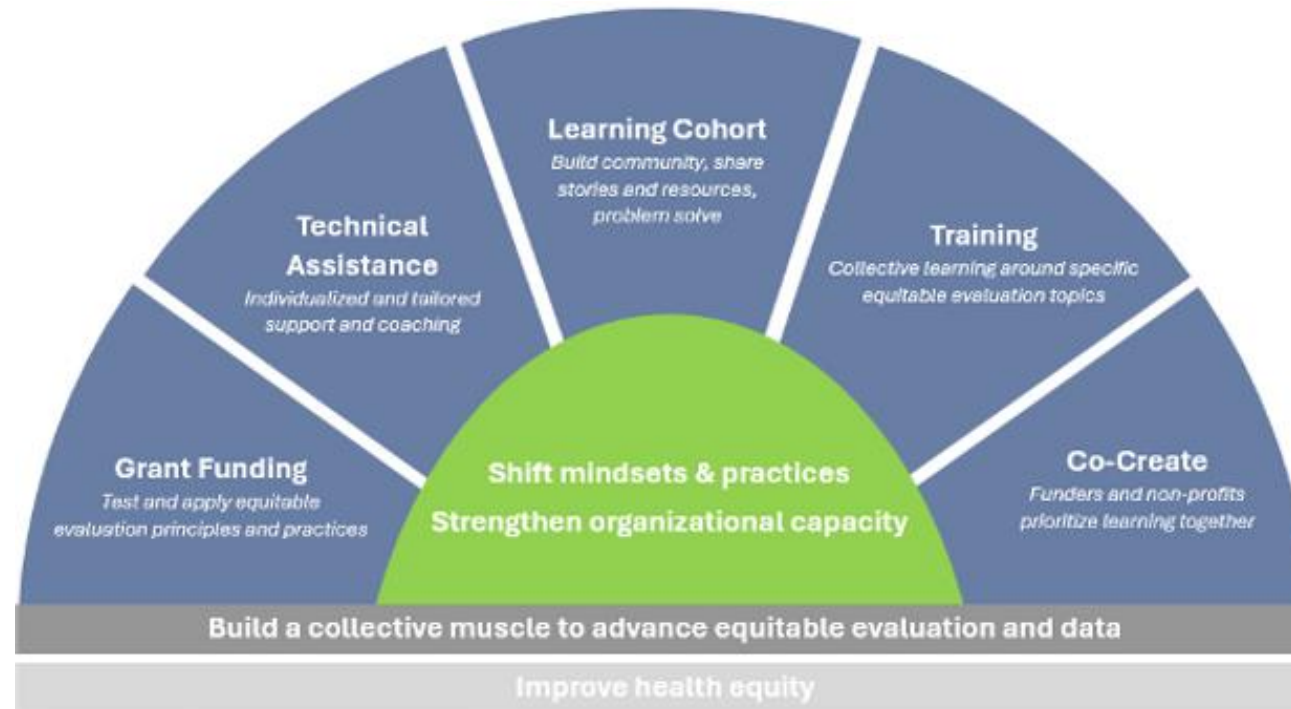
Are the methods we are using the most culturally appropriate?

Are we being transparent about how the data are analyzed?

Who gets to make sense of the data?

How – and to whom – do we communicate the results?

Our Theory of Change



Data for Equity: Key Components and Theory of Change

What does it take to strengthen organizational and collective capacity for equitable data and evaluation to help ensure that all communities and people have a full, fair, and just opportunity for good health?



Request for Proposals

Data for Equity RFP

Goal: To provide funding and learning opportunities to nonprofit and governmental organizations to strengthen their organizational capacity around equitable data and evaluation – ultimately, helping to ensure that everyone has a full, fair and just opportunity for good health.

Grants to learn and test new approaches to equitable data and evaluation practice.

Participate in a **learning cohort** to learn alongside and build connection to other organizations.

Engage in grantee-directed **technical assistance, coaching and training**, as applicable.

Learning Cohort

- Quarterly Learning Cohort meetings
 - First meeting scheduled for **February 17, 2027**
- Build relationships, share learning, problem solve with peers, engage in training
- Co-creation of content and structures
- Open to all team members (and board)
- Optional technical assistance, coaching, training, and support



Prior Cohort Training Topics

- We All Count *Foundations of Data Equity*
- Community Engagement & Culturally Responsive Evaluation
- Building a Culture of Evaluation
- Ethical Storytelling
- Outcomes v. Outputs
- Data and Evaluation Infrastructure



Case Studies

Changing the Intake Process

- Brought in staff and families to improve data completeness and accuracy (80%) from prior system
- Say that data is more meaningful and helps do the work better

Training Community Researchers

- Paid and trained members of community advisory committee as researchers
- New insights for strategic plan, ongoing resource for community feedback, and new skills for community members

Process Over Project

- Revisiting the tools and instruments used to gather data
- Engaging and educating board on data equity

Key Grantee Mindset & Action Shifts

“Data For Equity gives you permission to say ‘it’s okay to reconsider a lot of your practices.’ It helps to have a group of people alongside us saying we are all changing our strategies.”

— Data For Equity 2023 Grantee



Helped grantees see the potential harm of data collection practices while offering the support and confidence to change how they collected data.



Saw change in data practices including inviting communities they supported as active participants in research process and reexamining the intentions behind the questions asked when gathering data.



Broadened definitions of data to include stories and other forms of qualitative data.



Offerings and resources from Data for Equity gave space and time to move from data collection that was more arbitrary to collection that intentionally centered equity.

Technical Assistance and Training

- Individual Coaching available to grantees throughout the grant period
- Additional evaluation and data training opportunities offered throughout
 - Designed aligned with cohort interests.



“How do we solidify these innovative changes [into our organizations]? And how do we share this with the rest of the organization?”

-Data for Equity Grantee

Cohort Evaluation

- Goal: To capture the experience of process and learnings, shape technical assistance offerings, and inform the design of the cohort meetings, while minimize burden on grantees.
- Approach over past cohorts:
 - Quarterly touch points over the grant period (in addition to cohort meetings)
 - Self-evaluation pre and post cohort
 - Feedback surveys post cohort meetings
 - Midpoint check ins (calls)
 - End of grant:
 - Exit interview for final self-reflections on project and experience
 - Focus groups

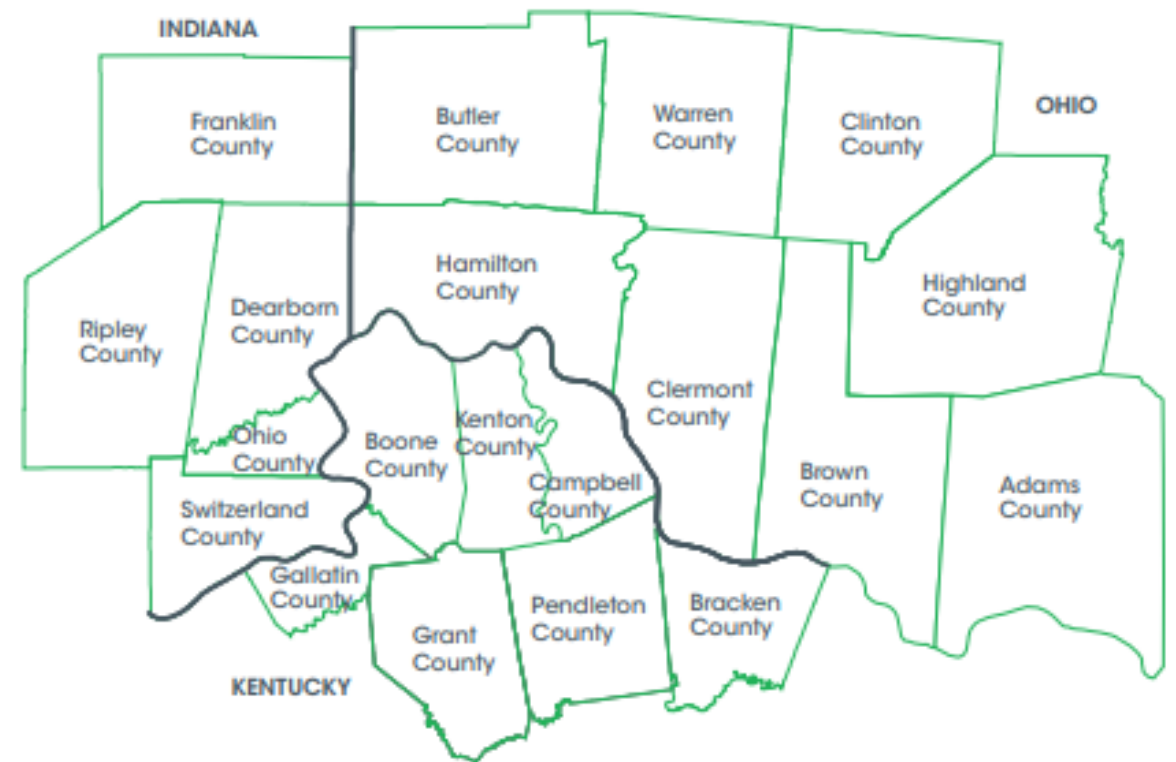
“Equitable data and evaluation work is a muscle we build through practice and continue to engage in - there is no end.”
-Data for Equity Grantee



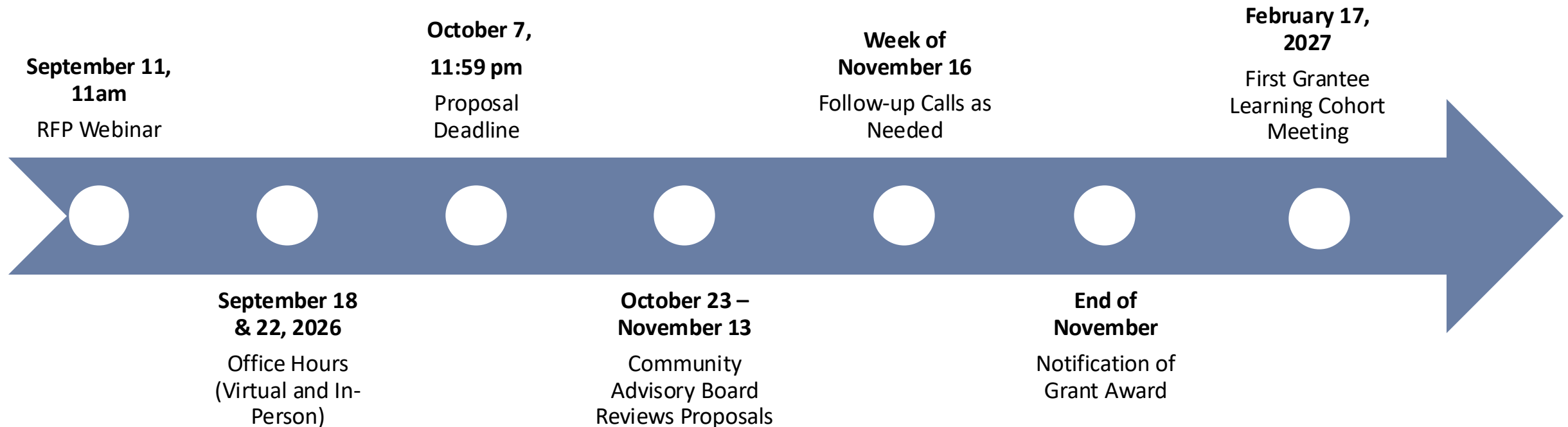
Application Process and Timeline

Grant Eligibility

- Public nonprofit or governmental organization
 - Fiscal sponsorship
- Provide services in at least one of 20-county region



RFP Timeline



Self-Reflection Tool

	Have not considered yet	Has been identified as an opportunity	We have a plan to address	We have started making progress	Is a strength of our organization
Equity is a central and explicit value of our organization	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our organization has diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) goals included in its strategic plan	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our organization has identified metrics for measuring how it is working toward its DEI goals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
We have participated in cultural competency or equity training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
We examine the potential impact of cultural stereotypes and personal biases in our evaluation efforts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

To support organizations in assessing their journey to use data and evaluation in pursuit of equitable programs and outcomes.

- What are our key strengths?
- What are our areas of opportunity?
- What steps can we take to move further along in our journey?

Not required for the application

Proposal Selection Criteria



That the organization's work is focused on health and health justice, with a clear and direct connection to health outcomes for the communities they serve.



An organizational commitment to learning and a genuine desire to shift organizational culture, mindsets, and practices to advance community-driven, equitable data and evaluation approaches.

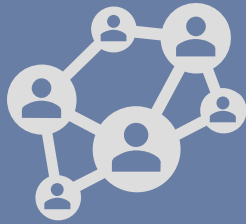


A proposed project that advances or strengthens equitable data and evaluation principles and practices and enables the organization to test new approaches and engage in continuous improvement.

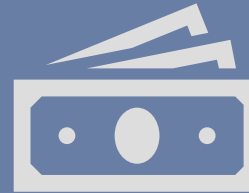


That equity is core to the organization's mission and central to its thinking and processes – including and beyond data and evaluation efforts.

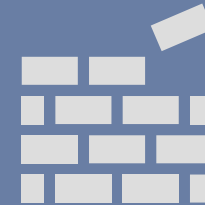
Proposal Selection Criteria cont.



How the organization is working within or influencing larger systems to advance health and health justice, and how the proposed project has the potential to shift how data is collected, interpreted, and used in those systems.



That the organization has staff that can commit to participation in the cohort and shepherding the project, a realistic timeline, and an appropriate budget (including compensation for community members) to achieve the goals outlined in the proposal.



That the organization already has basic data infrastructure or evaluation capacity to build upon.

Application Information

- Downloadable on the website
- Character limits
 - Not meant to be a goal
 - Adjustable if necessary, contact Kristine Schultz (kschultz@interactforhealth.org)
- Application reviewed holistically

Application Questions (1/5)

Building Data & Evaluation Capacity: Approach and Practices

- How would this capacity building opportunity support or expand the role of community- driven, equitable data and evaluation in your organization? Describe the internal champion or leader who will drive this work forward and their ability to influence organizational culture, mindsets, and practices.

Organizational Readiness

- What makes this the right time for your organization to advance this work? How would this opportunity help advance your organization's strategic goals? How does your organization work within or seek to influence larger systems to advance health and health justice?

Application Questions (2/5)

Proposed Project

- The proposed project is intended to advance or strengthen community-driven, equitable data and evaluation principles and practices, and enable the organization to test new approaches and engage in continuous improvement. Strong proposals describe multiple touchpoints and ongoing community engagement, rather than a single, one-time data collection event.
- Provide a description of the proposed project or work for which your organization is requesting funds, including a general anticipated timeline.
- If you will be engaging specific populations or communities in your project, please describe your current plans for engagement

Application Questions (2/5)

Defining Success

- What specific shifts in thinking, practices, policies, operations, or culture do you hope to see as a result of your participation in this program – and how do those shifts advance community-driven, equitable data and evaluation? Over the 18-month grant period, how might your organization look or operate differently? How do you anticipate these shifts will contribute to advancing a healthier community for all?

Existing Data Capacity

- Describe your organization's existing data infrastructure and evaluation capacity. What data do you currently collect, and what systems or processes do you use? How does the proposed project build on what you already have in place?

Please note that this grant is intended to build on existing capacity, not to support organizations beginning data collection for the first time.

Application Questions (3/5)

Learning Cohort

- Data for Equity utilizes a learning cohort model in which grantees gather together for training and shared learning experiences. Grantees are expected to participate in quarterly cohort meetings over the 18-month grant period, engage in periodic check-ins with funder staff, and work with a technical assistance coach. Please describe: (1) your organization's capacity and commitment to show up consistently for these engagement opportunities; (2) who from your organization would be available to participate; and (3) what specific topics your organization wants to explore in group learning.

Population(s) of Focus

- For people in our region to have a just opportunity to live their healthiest lives, we focus our funding on groups that are facing the greatest barriers to health and well-being. Printed On: 31 August 2026 Data for Equity: Building Capacity for Equitable Data and Evaluation 2026 (IFC) 2 Briefly describe any population(s) focus for your organization, and how your work connects directly to the health outcomes for that population.

Application Questions (4/5)

Geographical Area

- Describe the geographical area (e.g., county/counties, city, neighborhood) of focus of this project.

Organizational Equity Journey

- We acknowledge that organizations are at different stages in the process of thinking and working differently to center equity. How does your organization currently incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion in thinking and practice (i.e., policies, procedures, populations of focus, and so on)?

Anticipated Expenses (Budget)

- Amounts and narrative

Contact Information

Fiscal Sponsorship Information (if applicable)

Application Questions (5/5)

Organizational Financials:

- Most recent 990
- Current Operating Budget
- Audited Financials (if available)
- Lead Organization's Board of Trustees
- Conflict of Interest

Permission to share application:

- Permission to share with reviewers and whether or not have permission to share with other funders.

Applicant Feedback

- Hours spent, application improvement suggestions.

How to Apply

www.cincinnatiataforequity.com



[Home](#) [Our Story](#) [Request for Proposals](#) [2025 Cohort](#)

Strengthening Capacity for Equitable Data & Evaluation

Request for Proposals

September 2026

APPLY

Contact Kristine Niergarth with any
questions about the process at:
kniergarth@interactforhealth.org

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Q & A

Drop your questions in the chat

Connect with Us

Zohar Perla, Director of Evaluation
and Learning

Zohar_perla@bi3.org

Jennifer Zimmerman, VP, Strategy
and Chief Impact Officer

Jennifer_Zimmerman@bi3.org



Tiffany LaCour, Senior Program Officer

tiffany.lacour@healthpathohio.org



Kelley Adcock, Senior Director of
Data and Learning

kadcock@interactforhealth.org

Michelle Lydenberg, Senior
Manager of Data and Learning

mlydenberg@interactforhealth.org

