



Rural Changemaker Grant

Background

The rural regions served by Interact for Health in the tristate area possess unique gifts and assets. Our goal with this funding effort is to support grassroots, locally-led changemaking efforts that seek to resolve community-identified challenges related to health. Those who live in our rural communities are the experts of their own experiences, and they are the most skilled at navigating challenges and finding solutions.

RFP Goal

To provide strategic funding that enhances and supports grassroots work addressing community-identified challenges and inequalities related to health in the rural regions served by Interact for Health in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

RFP Overview

This grant can support flexible and multifaceted efforts and is intended to allow community members to engage in activities they feel are needed to make an impact on the health and wellness of their community. **Applicants can utilize their own determination for proposed planning, project, or operations activities.** Interact for Health aims to remove barriers in the grantmaking process and provide funding that is highly flexible to meet the community's needs.

This funding opportunity is purposefully flexible to allow potential grantees to creatively address localized health-related issues in ways they might not otherwise be able to. We recognize that rural areas face a historic lack of access to consistent resources. Funding is intended to support solutions that address issues identified as most relevant to rural communities by those who live and work locally.

Proposed projects should:

- Center rural communities (see “Definitions” below) as the primary focus of a proposed or existing project or program, including leadership and decision-making power.
- Make rural communities the primary beneficiaries of outcomes generated by the project or program.
- Address a health challenge or underlying inequity identified by the community.
- Plan, develop, implement and/or sustain a solution.
- Create action by energizing community members around a common, shared health concern.

Grant size and length will vary based on the scope of the project. Eligible rural organizations may apply for grants between \$10,000 - \$100,000. Grant



applications will be evaluated on a quarterly basis for a total of up to \$800,000 annually.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a public or private nonprofit or governmental organization
- Provide services in at least one county of Interact for Health’s identified rural counties in Ohio, Indiana, or Kentucky (see “Definitions” below)

Organizations that are not nonprofits or governmental entities may still seek funding through fiscal sponsorship. A fiscal sponsorship is a relationship between a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization (the sponsor organization) and a charitable project that does not have a tax-exempt status (the sponsored organization).

Grantee Requirements

Depending on the project, awarded grantees may be expected to:

- Participate in grantee meetings up to three times yearly to share their work and learning with other grantees and Interact for Health
- Participate in [evaluation and learning activities](#) for the grant and part of the overall initiative

Proposal Selection Criteria

The most competitive applications will:

- Focus on rural people and communities
- Authentically center rural people and communities in the project, including through leadership and decision-making power
- Work to improve health outcomes by reducing disparities and advancing health equity (i.e. meeting an otherwise overlooked health-related need, creating opportunities for health access, address any of the social drivers of health defined below)
- Have goals for the grant period that are clear, feasible and aligned with the goal of the RFP
- Demonstrate that the organization can achieve the goals outlined in the proposal with the budget, timeline and staff capacity indicated
- Focus on an issue or challenge identified *by* local people who live and work as part of their community

Timeline

RFP Opening	January 9, 2024
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Proposal Deadlines	March 4, June 3, Oct. 7
Site visits	March, July, October
Notification of grant award	May, Aug., Nov.

Community Information Sessions

Program staff will be available during the times below to answer any questions about the RFP or your proposed project.

Brown County Public Library- Georgetown (200 W Grant Ave, Georgetown, OH 45121)	Feb. 22, May 17, Aug. 8 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Grant County Public Library- Williamstown (201 Barnes Rd, Williamstown, KY 41097)	Feb. 21, May 16, Aug. 7 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Tyson Library- Versailles (325 W Tyson St, Versailles, IN 47042)	Feb. 23, May 15, Aug. 9 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Proposal Submissions

Applications will be accepted quarterly. They must be submitted by **Monday, March 4, at 5 pm, Monday, June 3, at 5 pm, and Monday, October 7 at 5 pm** via Interact for Health's online grants management system. To begin the application process or to access a PDF of the required application questions, please visit the [Open Funding page of our website](#). If you have an open grant or have received a grant from Interact for Health in the past two years, your email address may already be registered in the system. For assistance with the application process, please get in touch with our Director of Grants Management, Kristine Schultz, at kschultz@interactforhealth.org.

Site Visits

Before selecting projects for funding, Interact for Health staff will conduct a site visit, either virtual or in person, with the potential grantee. Representatives from collaborating organizations are required to attend the site visit. This meeting allows Interact for Health staff to hear more about the proposed project and ask any clarifying questions. Site visits will be conducted in **March, July, and October 2024 following the review and selection process**. Applicants will indicate their preferred timeslot during the application process. Site visit topics will include:

- General discussion of your proposed project and budget
- The population of focus for the project
- Any disparities that exist and how this project plans to address them
- Community engagement tactics



- Collaborating partners and organizations or those you intend to engage
- Your organization's journey around diversity, equity and inclusion
- What “success” for this project will look like

Questions

For any questions, please contact Senior Program Manager of Community Engagement (Rural), Caitlin Bentley, at cbentley@interactforhealth.org or 606-226-0025.

Definitions

Community Power: The ability of communities most impacted by inequity to act together to voice their needs and hopes for the future and to collectively drive structural change, hold decision-makers accountable and advance health equity.

Grassroots Work: An effort designed, developed and executed to meet local needs by local people. Grassroots work can extend to multiple counties or can be locally led efforts receiving some outside support from other organizations. The key factor is that it is organically developed by individuals with lived experience to meet the needs of their community.

Health Justice: Health justice takes equity further by changing systems to achieve sustainable and equitable long-term change. It recognizes the barriers that stand in the way of optimal health and works to remove them. Health justice is addressing root causes through power building and policy and systems change.

Policy Change: A policy change attempts to change public laws, regulations, rules, mandates (public policy) or budgets/funding.

Rural: Interact for Health defines “rural communities” for our grantmaking purposes by utilizing intersectional criteria focused on population density and a historic deficit in resources.

- Lower population density, compared to other areas.
- Historically under-resourced, compared to other areas.
 - Federal and state dollars lower.
 - Local city/ township investment and tax base are lower.
 - County tax base is lower compared to other areas.
- Fewer local resources than other areas.
 - Fewer local nonprofits.
 - Fewer medical facilities.
 - Fewer emergency responder resources.
 - Fewer public school systems and districts.

Rural Regions: Interact for Health defines the following counties in these states as our rural regions:

- Indiana



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- Dearborn County
- Franklin County
- Ripley County
- Ohio County
- Switzerland County
- Kentucky
 - Bracken County
 - Gallitin County
 - Grant County
 - Pendleton County
- Ohio
 - Adams County
 - Brown County
 - Clermont County
 - Clinton County
 - Highland County

Social Drivers of Health have a major impact on people's health, well-being and quality of life. They also contribute to wide health disparities and inequities. Social drivers of health are kept in place by structural drivers embedded into many of our systems, policies and practices such as racism, discrimination and imbalance of power. The following are five social drivers of health:

- Economic instability
- Lack of Education Access and Quality
- Social Isolation
- Lack of transportation and safe environments
- Health Care Access and Quality

Systems Change: A system change attempts to shift the way broader systems (e.g., health, public safety, local government) make decisions about policies, programs and the allocation or use of resources.