

## Community Health Improvement Grants

### Program Overview, Eligibility Criteria, Application Link and Key Dates

#### The Grants Program

Through the Community Health Improvement Grants program, CommonSpirit Health hospitals annually fund programs and services delivered by collaborating 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, to address one or more significant needs in the hospitals' community health needs assessments and implementation strategies. Community Health Improvement Grants help to improve community health and enhance local service systems via restricted charitable contributions for defined projects.

#### Participating Hospitals

Participating hospitals include those of Catholic Health Initiatives, Dignity Health and Virginia Mason Franciscan Health. These hospitals are all part of CommonSpirit Health, which was created in 2019 when Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health came together to create a national health system. Some hospitals located close to one another may collaborate on a single grant process, and not each accept separate proposals. A complete list of participating hospitals is on the [grant program website](#).

#### Grant Award Ranges

Grant awards have minimum and maximum amounts that vary by hospital. These amounts are listed in a document on the [grant program website](#) and the grant application portal, which will be accessible via the program website beginning July 17, 2023. There are two grant award ranges, each with its own application form. Applications for standard grants require more detailed project information than those for small grants.

- Small grants: Grant awards up to \$19,999.
- Standard grants: Grant awards from \$20,000 - \$100,000. Not every hospital awarding standard grants will make awards up to \$100,000, but in no case will a single grant exceed \$100,000. Hospitals that have set a maximum grant award of less than \$100,000 will be noted on the list of participating hospitals.

#### Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- 1) Applicants must be IRS 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, or have a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)3 organization and capable of administering grant project funds. Applicants must provide an IRS Determination Letter documenting 501(c)3 status and be in good standing.
- 2) Applicants and partners must have a philosophy and services not inconsistent with the [mission and vision of CommonSpirit Health](#).



**Proposal Eligibility Criteria**

- 1) Proposals are for projects that address one or more significant health needs in the hospital’s most recent community health needs assessment (CHNA) or implementation strategy, with sustained project activity over the course of between 9 and 12 months. Prospective applicants should [follow this link](#) to locate and review the CHNA report for the hospital to which they intend to apply.
- 2) The program is intended both to support the delivery of services and to strengthen collaborative service systems. Consistent with this aim, proposals for grant projects of \$20,000 or more must include collaborating partner organizations other than the granting hospital with distinct, complementary and substantive project roles. Collaborating partner organizations (“partners”) can be non-profit, public or private organizations.

Grant Type	Proposal Amount	Proposal includes Applicant and...
Small grant	Up to \$19,999	Collaborating partners are encouraged
Standard grant	\$20,000 - \$100,000	Two or more collaborating partner organizations

Partners may receive a portion of the grant that is awarded to the applicant, for costs of their project activities. This is communicated in the proposal budget. Distribution of any awarded funds to partners is the responsibility of the applicant (grantee).

- 3) People and communities to be served are within the hospital’s service area and include identified underserved or vulnerable populations, to help address health inequities.
- 4) People to be served can include members of the community at-large, patients of CommonSpirit Health entities or both. (If any patient Protected Health Information is to be shared in the course of proposed activities, appropriate patient consent procedures and/or Business Associate Agreements may be required of funded projects to ensure compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).)
- 5) Proposals convey how their proposed projects reflect one or more of the following principles: focus on disproportionate unmet health-related needs (advancing health equity); emphasize prevention, including activities that address social determinants of health; contribute to a seamless continuum of care; build community capacity; and demonstrate collaboration.
- 6) Proposals are for one year periods only. Applicants can apply in subsequent years for similar scopes of work or to conduct different projects, but projects will not be funded for more than four consecutive years.



- 7) Ineligible proposals include those for unrestricted general operating support, event sponsorships and activities less than 9 months in duration.
- 8) The grant program does not fund capital projects, lobbying or political campaigns.
- 9) The grant program does not fund indirect costs.

**Applying**

Applicant organizations complete proposals and submit all relevant attachments online, via CommonSpirit Health’s grant portal, which will be accessible via the [grant program website](#) from **July 17 - September 8, 2023**. The application portal will contain documents listing all application questions and required supporting documents, so that applicants can prepare in advance.

**Key Dates**

July 17 - September 8, 2023	Grant application period is open. Applicant organizations can apply online.
(on or about) November 20, 2023	Applicants are notified of funding decisions.
December 2023	Grant agreements are signed, followed by grant award payments.
January 1, 2024	Grant project period begins.
July 31, 2024	Mid-year project reports due.
December 31, 2024	Grant project period ends.
February 15, 2025	Final project reports due.

**Questions and Technical Assistance**

- Questions about local hospitals’ grant priorities and processes can be addressed to the appropriate Local Grant Leaders noted on the [participating hospitals list](#).
- General questions about the Community Health Improvement Grants program can be directed to [communitygrants@commonspirit.org](mailto:communitygrants@commonspirit.org).