**Birth Equity Funds Request For Applications**

**Grant Title:** Birth Equity Project- Investing in Black/ African American Families in King County

**Grant Application Due Date:** October 11th by 5:00pm PST

**PROJECT YEAR 1:** December 1, 2021- September 30, 2022

**PLANNING PHASE:** 12/1/2021-3/1/2021

**ANTICIPATED TOTAL GRANT FUNDING – YEAR 1:** up to $190,000.00

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL FUNDING LEVEL YEARS 2-4:** up to $200,000.00 annually

Request for Funding Application (RFA) Schedule/Timeline:

The following are anticipated due dates. \*Please see full funding terms and conditions (Appendix).

| RFA RELEASE DATE: | September 20th ,2021 |
| --- | --- |
| APPLICANT CONFERENCE CALL | September 24th, 2:00pm-3:00pm PST |
| FULL REQUEST FOR APPLICATION DUE DATE: | October 11th, 2021 5:00 PM PST |
| Interviews with projects who meet the funding priorities | Week of October 18th, 2021 |
| NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT AWARDS: | By October 29th, 2021 |
| ANTICIPATED PLANNING START DATE: | 12/1/2021 |
| ANTICIPATED PROJECT START DATE: | 3/1/2021 |

**Purpose:**

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) proposes to fund projects aimed at improving maternal health and birth outcomes in priority populations through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHS). We are inviting community organizations to submit a request for application (RFA) to apply for direct funds to plan and implement a four year Birth Equity Project (December 1, 2021 – September 2025) aimed at achieving these goals. This project will support holistic, culturally appropriate and multigenerational approaches to improving the health of pregnant/birthing persons and babies. Funded projects will achieve measurable and meaningful outcomes through implementation of evidence based/evidence informed or community informed prevention models.

**Background Information:**

The Washington State Department of Health Birth Equity Project was developed to invest in community programming to improve birth outcomes for Black, African American, Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native women and infants in Washington State.

Funding was initially awarded through a competitive RFP process in 2019 which resulted in 3 grantees receiving both planning and implementation funding. These grantees are now in their third year of funding.

As a result of a broad and sustained response from members of the birthing community and their partners in greater King County, DOH did not provide implementation funding for one grantee. This funding has been committed to serve Black birthing families in King County.

A team of community members were formed to select and disperse the remaining funds. The intention is to ensure that the Black/African American community can provide direction on how to best invest the funds in order to improve birth outcomes in the Black/African American community in King County.

**Funding Requirements and Priorities:**

Requirements:

From the direction of the Community Advisory Committee, the following are the funding requirements:

* Be a community based organization which is defined as “The organizational culture, structure, and accountability are rooted in the [Black/ African American] community they serve.“
* Must be a 501 (c)3 or fiscally sponsored by a 501 (c)3
* Be a community based organization that is Black/ African American led. Meaning 50% or more of the staff identify as Black/African American. As well as 50% or more of the board if a 501 (c)3 or leadership if fiscally sponsored.
* The funds will be exclusively used to serve Black/African American pregnant people and their families in King County.

Funding Priorities:

From the direction of the Community Advisory Committee, the following are the funding priorities:

* Disrupt and or minimize the impacts anti-Black racism on Black/African American pregnant and birthing people during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and perinatal period.
* Provide services that support Black/African American pregnant and birthing people during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and perinatal period.
* Support Black/African American birthing people in navigating the anti-Black racism in the medical industrial complex.
* Builds community capacity and sustainability in the Black/African American community.
* The project can explain how their approach will improve birth outcomes for Black/ African American pregnant people and their babies.

Additional Priorities as Outlined by DOH:

* Implement responsive, community led approaches
* Support and build upon strong community partnerships
* Utilize evidence based/evidence informed programs or community informed practices that are culturally relevant
* Address key social determinants of health impacting maternal health and birth outcomes
* Identify evaluation strategies and sustainability approaches
* Implement responsive, community led approaches
* Build community capacity and sustainability

**Funding and Application Content Requirements:**

The Community Advisory Committee will be heading a unique approach to this RFA. Using interviews to speak with prospective applicants to learn more about their work and goals for the use of the funds in order to ensure these funds will be invested in a project that is embedded in the Black/African American community and builds capacity in the Black /African American community to serve pregnant people and their families.

Prospective projects will follow the process below:

* Submit a Letter of Interest that explains the project approach [the approach should explain how the project is aligned and meets the funding priorities listed above] in no more than 3 pages
* Submit a project work plan [template attached]
* Submit a project budget [template attached]
* Use this link <https://forms.gle/NPRZGr2wxa2F1S659> to sign up for an interview date
* Funding Face Sheet. Fully complete the face sheet form and submit with application.
* Supporting Attachments
  + Any additional letters of support not included with the LOI and other supporting documents such as existing MOU/MOA’s, collaborative partnerships
  + The composition of your current board of directors and staff.

**Application Process and Scoring:**

Application process:

* Applicants will submit application by October 11th at 5pm
* Please use this link <https://forms.gle/NPRZGr2wxa2F1S659> to schedule an interview at time of application submission. A confirmation email will be sent to you with the zoom link for the interview. All applications will be interviewed, so please make sure to register for an interview when you submit your application.
* Interviews will take place October 18th-22nd.
* The selected project will be notified by October 25th.

Scoring guidelines:

Interviews 50 points:

* The project can connect their work to addressing the harms done by racism
* The organization leading the project can identify how they receive and apply community feedback
* Services that are provided under this project specifically are going towards Black/African American clients
* The project can explain how they embody accountability to the Black/African American community
* The organization is committed to creating a culture where Black/ African American employees have a grievance process to address anti-blackness
* The project can explain their process to addressing anti-blackness within partner organizations
* The project can explain how the services provided are connected to a long term strategy of birth justice for Black/ African American pregnant people and their families
* The project can explain how their approach will improve birth outcomes for Black/ African American pregnant people and their babies.
* The project can explain how they are Black/ African American led and their history of being Black/African American led

Project Approach 35 points:

* Disrupt and or minimize the impacts anti-Black racism on Black/African American pregnant and birthing people during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and perinatal period.
* Provide services that support Black/African American pregnant and birthing people during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and perinatal period (0-2years).
* Support Black/African American birthing people in navigating the anti-Black racism in the medical industrial complex.
* Builds community capacity and sustainability in the Black/African American community.
* The project can explain how their approach will improve birth outcomes for Black/ African American pregnant people and their babies.

Project Work Plan 15 points:

* The work plan can demonstrate tangible services for clients
* Goals are connected to addressing the impacts and harm of anti-black racism
* The project can explain how their approach will improve birth outcomes for Black/ African American pregnant people and their babies.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

Department of Health

DOH will support successful applicants by providing:

* Contract oversight and point of contact for overall project coordination, technical assistance, and facilitation of project communication;
* A 3 month collaborative planning phase;
* An epidemiologist working with project partners throughout planning phases and project periods;
* Templates for project deliverables and technical assistance with reporting requirements; and
* Technical assistance/training on meeting project goals, objectives, and activities related to:
* Identifying culturally and linguistically appropriate evidence-based, evidence informed, or promising programs.
* Developing and adapting project materials so they are culturally and linguistically appropriate.
* Providing relevant resources and training.
* Meeting performance measure, evaluation, and data collection requirements.
* Developing work plans and logic models.
* Obtaining approval from Department of Health staff on grant-related activities and products.

Selected Applicant

Successful applicants will develop and implement a work plan that identifies community strategies for reducing maternal and infant health disparities.

With this funding, the contracted organization, will accomplish the following:

* Fulfill program administration roles and responsibilities:
  + Identify project staff;
  + Participate in training for grantees hosted by DOH;
  + Submit accurate and complete progress reports, per guidance and agreed upon deadlines; and In alignment with contracting requirements
  + Act as the fiduciary agent if subcontracting.
* Meet evaluation requirements:
  + Participate in performance measure data collection activities in collaboration with DOH; and
  + Participate in project evaluation activities developed and coordinated by DOH.
* Coordinate development and implementation of a cohesive project with a comprehensive work plan and budget for these grant funds.

This RFA is open to organizations that meet the standard Department of Health minimum eligibility requirements, as outlined in the General Terms and Conditions. If your organization does not meet the minimum eligibility requirements, obtaining a fiscal sponsor that does meet the requirements is allowable.

**Conference Call**

The facilitator for this project, Jackie Vaughn, will host an informational conference call for potential applicants. Conference call details are as follows:

Date: September 24thth

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm PST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88960358391>

Meeting ID: 889 6035 8391

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,88960358391# US (Tacoma)

+16699006833,,88960358391# US (San Jose)

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Check each box below as you complete the section. All items must be checked, completed, and included in order for the application to be accepted. Please submit the application checklist with your final application.

* Funding face sheet
* LOI
* Project work plan
* Program budget
* Supporting attachments

**FUNDING FACE SHEET**

| NAME OF ORGANIZATION |  |
| --- | --- |
| ADDRESS |  |
| PROJECT MANAGER |  |
| TITLE |  |
| TELEPHONE |  |
| EMAIL |  |
| TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) |  |
| AGENCY’S FISCAL YEAR BEGINS |  |
| PROPOSED BUDGET FOR YEAR 1 (10/01/19-9/30/20) |  |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Authorized Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Authorized Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title/Date

**BIRTH EQUITY PROJECT WORK PLAN TEMPLATE**

**Please provide at least two goals for the program and 1-2 objectives for each goal..**

Your goals and objectives should align with the following:

* The work plan can demonstrate tangible services for clients
* Goals are connected to addressing the impacts and harm of anti-black racism
* The project can explain how their approach will improve birth outcomes for Black/ African American pregnant people and their babies.

| **Birth Equity Project Goal 1 Example: Minimize and or interrupt impacts of anti-blackness from providers and place(s) of birth** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective 1: Example: Provide trainings on examples of anti-blackness from providers and birthing institutions** | | | |
| **Key Milestones**  *(35 word limit)* | **Person(s) Primarily Responsible** | **Target Date for Accomplishing Milestone** | **Notes** |
| 1. **Example: Develop curriculum** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **What potential barriers do you anticipate while completing the project elements described? How do you plan to solve or address those barriers?** | | | |
| **Objective 2:** | | | |
| **Key Milestones**  *(35 word limit)* | **Person(s) Primarily Responsible** | **Target Date for Accomplishing Milestone** | **Notes** |
| **1.** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **What potential barriers do you anticipate while completing the project elements described? How do you plan to solve or address those barriers?** | | | |

| **Birth Equity Project Goal 2:** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective 1:** | | | |
| **Key Milestones**  *(35 word limit)* | **Person(s) Primarily Responsible** | **Target Date for Accomplishing Milestone** | **Notes** |
| **1.** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **What potential barriers do you anticipate while completing the project elements described? How do you plan to solve or address those barriers?** | | | |
| **Objective 2:** | | | |
| **Key Milestones**  *(35 word limit)* | **Person(s) Primarily Responsible** | **Target Date for Accomplishing Milestone** | **Notes** |
| **1.** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **What potential barriers do you anticipate while completing the project elements described? How do you plan to solve or address those barriers?** | | | |

| **Birth Equity Project Goal 3:** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective 1:** | | | |
| **Key Milestones**  *(35 word limit)* | **Person(s) Primarily Responsible** | **Target Date for Accomplishing Milestone** | **Notes** |
| **1.** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **What potential barriers do you anticipate while completing the project elements described? How do you plan to solve or address those barriers?** | | | |
| **Objective 2:** | | | |
| **Key Milestones**  *(35 word limit)* | **Person(s) Primarily Responsible** | **Target Date for Accomplishing Milestone** | **Notes** |
| **1.** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **What potential barriers do you anticipate while completing the project elements described? How do you plan to solve or address those barriers?** | | | |

**Appendix**

**FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

All Request for Application timelines are estimated due dates. The terms and dates listed are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Department of Health (DOH). DOH reserves the right to amend the schedule at any time and for any reason. Any such amendment will be distributed in the same manner as the original offering. Applicants are responsible for downloading any amendments as they are sent out. DOH is not responsible for any misplaced or misdirected documentation.