— REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS —

UBUNTU | Collaborative Partnerships to Advance Health Equity

Due: February 2, 2023| Up to $15,000

Ubuntu Meaning

Ubuntu is a word and concept that centers on collective togetherness. The Nguni expression 'umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu', which means 'a person is a person through other people' is the most dynamic way of understanding the fullness of Ubuntu.

Overview

As a community foundation, the Partnership for Better Health strives to serve as a catalyst, advocate, and collaborator to establish health as a shared priority, toward ensuring that everyone has what they need for good health. New grants of up to $15,000 are available to community groups that forge strategic partnerships with new organizations and local residents to address the issues of access to affordable health care, affordable quality housing, food security or transportation. Proposals should demonstrate a deep commitment to engaging and building upon the experiences and leadership capacities of local residents, who bring lived experience with the selected focus area. Projects should go beyond the engagement of traditional stakeholders, to mobilize the vision and capacities of residents at the grassroots level, who have the greatest understanding of the current challenges and the most to gain from innovative new solutions. Applications are due by February 2, 2023.

Background

The Partnership for Better Health's mission is to champion and invest in ideas, initiatives and collaborations that improve the health of the people and communities in our region. We work closely with key stakeholders throughout Central and Western Cumberland County, Perry County, Northern Adams County and Greater Shippensburg.

Through the leadership of our inaugural Director of Health Equity, Dr. Marcellus C. Taylor, the Partnership for Better Health is developing a full complement of health equity strategies. We have

embraced a dynamic definition of health equity developed by the Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network (HELEN):

Health equity exists when all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or other social constructs have fair and just access, opportunity, and resources to achieve their highest potential for health.

This definition serves as a visionary framework for our transformative health equity work. We invite community members, mission-driven organizations, coalitions, government agencies, businesses and all other groups committed to these principles to join with us.

In September 2022, the Partnership for Better Health hosted a series of Health Equity Dialogues with key community leaders and stakeholders. The four separate dialogues centered on the themes of access to quality health care, affordable and quality housing, food access, and transportation. During the sessions, participants engaged in deep and meaningful dialogues about common barriers and opportunities to achieve better health for all. Community members worked together to generate a bold shared vision for advancing health equity. For example, the transportation group created the collage below, using a framework of presentational knowing (Yorks & Kasl, 2006). As a form of communication that goes beyond written reports and statistics, the collage presentation reflects an abundantly imaginative vision for transportation.

Project Focus

This new project focuses on a systems framework for change. Systems work speaks to the daily values and methods that aid the collective action of individuals and organizations as they seek to address community challenges. As detailed in their book, "The Systems Work of Social Change," authors Cynthia Rayner and Francois Bonnici share a framework that emphasizes deep and sustained process as the value being generated, over outcomes (Rayner & Bonnici, 2021). Critical components from their research on systems work and core principles to be applied through this funding opportunity include:

1. **Fostering Connection:** New connections and relationships foster the creation of a positive collective group identity. Connections may occur through dialogues, focus groups, town halls, action planning, meal sharing, celebrations and other meaningful interactions with residents and key stakeholders who are directly impacted by shared community concerns and conditions. Emerging and established resident leaders are collectively mobilized by their common interests and are mutually supported in their capacities to envision and effect change. As success and direction builds over time, the initiative works to foster connection with other complimentary and like-minded groups.

2. **Reconfiguring Power:** Engagement and empowerment of residents with direct lived experience with the selected issue are a focus for the proposed collaborative. While a host organization may serve as a backbone support to the initiative, the host is deliberate in ensuring that community residents and leaders set the agenda – decision making and action planning become resident-participant driven. Hosts may foster a sense of belonging, provide a gathering space, assist in the background with coordination of meetings, while also learning, listening and growing in their process of supporting resident mobilization. In most cases (unless they are leaders with lived experience) hosts avoid functioning as leading drivers, planners or saviors. Rather than focus on charitably serving others, for example through social service provision, hosts focus on sharing and reconfiguring power – to empower people in new ways.

3. **Embracing Context:** The group recognizes that long-standing community challenges are typically complex and ever changing. A fixed model for social change or an established solution that worked well in one community context may play out quite differently in another setting. The group is encouraged to shift and adapt its direction within the context of its current community environment, structures and systems. The group embraces its varied contexts and unique capacities.

Through the application of these principles, the Partnership invites community members to reimagine how **access to health care, quality affordable housing, food security and transportation** can better meet the needs of everyone, by exploring new methods of advancing equity. Applicants should focus on one of these four main themes, plus you may also opt to include one or more of the themes in the complete health equity wheel (see graphic).

This health equity graphic was designed by the North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families (North Carolina Collaborative, 2022). Each area is considered a vital element of a healthy community. To learn more about these themes, visit: https://www.gethealthysmc.org/10-key-components-healthy-equitable-communities

Leaders for the project will be asked to include the following key components.

1. **Create a Shared Vision:** Identify the major theme you will explore in this project (access to health care, quality affordable housing, food security, transportation). If done well, what difference might this project make that can be seen, felt and experienced?

2. **Organize a Team** of local residents with backgrounds and experiences that are grounded in the chosen focus area. Engage the team to provide oversight, motivation and direction for this project. Consider how the group may be inclusive, welcoming and adding new people.

3. **Empower All Voices** to be heard during each phase of the project. How will your project be grassroots and community-driven? How will citizen empowerment be mobilized and transformative?

4. **Develop a Plan of Action:** Facilitate action centered meetings that generate innovative new strategies and relationships to address your issue and foster health equity. Convene in-person and/or digital spaces for community members to reflect on their experiences with the selected focus area.

5. **Provide Backbone Support:** Manage all information collected, generated, and produced during the project. Share logistical information with all stakeholders along the way, like meeting spaces, schedules and communications.

6. **Assess Results:** Report progress and key findings with all stakeholders. Present a project summary report and strategic next steps to key community constituents and organizations.

7. **Consider Sustainability & Growth with Next Steps:** This Request for Applications is designed to help build the groundwork for community action. Optimally, your initiative will have the potential to form and advance a sustained community. The Partnership for Better Health will encourage you to consider future grants—through our foundation and others—to support

continued progress beyond this 12-month period. We encourage you to consider an approach to building the capacity of resident leaders that may be long-term.

Project Examples

- A neighborhood group plans a community garden to provide neighbors with fresh produce, to educate young people about cultural food traditions, and to raise awareness about food insecurity. The success of the garden serves as a gathering point and mobilizes residents to join together in the planning of other neighborhood improvements through municipal advocacy.
- To better understand health access and transportation issues, a neighborhood-based team collects surveys at their local community health center. The team then hosts half-day retreat-style meetings that include deep discussions about the survey findings, brainstorming, and a shared meal. Residents offer leadership and expert input. The results are shared with key stakeholders, health center staff and municipal leaders.
- The NeighborWorks housing initiative is another example. NeighborWorks is a resident-led, community driven process to engage neighbors in reimagining better neighborhoods and quality housing solutions. To learn more about this model, visit: https://www.neighborworks.org/getattachment/b89b7556-4918-4b2e-a65f-6eba47d8a86a/Empowering-Resident-Leaders-Lessons-from-NeighborWorks-Community-Leadership-Institute.aspx

Eligibility

Community organizations who meet the criteria below are encouraged to apply.

1. Applicants must be a legal entity and are preferred—but not required—to be registered as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.
2. Applicants must be able to provide a detailed plan of how they will engage multiple stakeholders throughout each phase of the project.
3. Applicants must be able to facilitate the entire project within our geographic service area and be able to report results based on the Partnership for Better Health's service area.
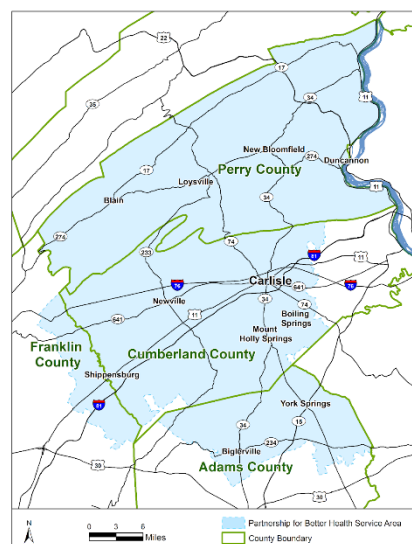
Proposed Project Timeline	
Release of Request for Applications	11/29/2022
Ubuntu RFA Overview Workshop	12/05/2022 12/06/2022
Applications Due	02/02/2023
Finalist Q & A / Interviews (as needed)	02/10/2022
Selection Announced	02/20/2022
Pre-Start Workshop	03/02/2022
Anticipated Start Date	03/06/2023
Completion Date	12/31/2023

Applications are due to the Partnership for Better Health by **February 2, 2023.** A final decision about selected applicants will be announced in **mid-February of 2023.** The Partnership for Better Health will host an **Ubuntu RFA Webinar** for all individuals and organizations interested in submitting a proposal. The Zoom information for the workshop is below.

Ubuntu RFA Webinar: An Introduction to Themes & Strategies
December 5, 2022
10-11 am Eastern Time
December 6, 2022
1-2 pm Eastern Time
Zoom Information
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83667263733
Meeting ID: 836 6726 3733

Application Review & Selection Process

The Partnership for Better Health accepts all applications online. Our electronic system is used for each step in the grant process, including submission of your application and final grant report. Please review all application steps outlined in Appendix A before applying for the first time.

The Health Equity Impact Review (HEIR) Committee comprised of community volunteers will review and consider each application carefully. Their selection process will include the following steps.

Step 1 — Review of Qualifications: The HEIR Committee will determine which groups are best qualified to complete the project based upon the overall quality of the proposal and alignment with the priorities above.

Step 2 — Follow up Q & A and Interviews with Finalists: Follow up questions will be shared with applicants, as needed.

Feel free to direct questions about this funding opportunity to Director of Health Equity, Marcellus C. Taylor, Ed.D. (Marcellus@ForBetterHealthPA.org or 717-960-9009 x5).

References

Rayner, C., &Bonnici, F., (2021). *The Systems Work of Social Change: How to harness connection, context, and power to cultivate deep and enduring change*. Oxford University Press.

North Carolina Collaborative. (2021). *Elements of a Healthy Community*. Retrieved September 17, 2022, from https://nccollaborative.org/social-determinants-of-health/elements-of-healthy-community/

Yorks, L., & Kasl, E. (2006). I Know More Than I Can Say: A taxonomy for using expressive ways of knowing to foster transformative learning. *Journal of Transformative Education*, *4*(1), 43-64.

Appendix A: BUDGET

Using the attached budget template, provide a detailed budget and budget narrative confirming plans for the use of funds. Project budgets are anticipated to be up to $15,000. Please provide any additional information regarding the listed budget expenses and cost justification, if not stated elsewhere in the application. If other funders will be asked to support this project, please list them as well.

Sample Budget Template

EXPENSES (examples below may be changed & modified as needed)	AMOUNT
Meeting Supplies / Facilities / Food	
Training & Development	
Printing & Copying	
Program Transportation	
Learning Materials	
Indirect Costs	
Other (Specify)	
Other	
Other	
TOTAL EXPENSES	
INCOME	
Other Funding Sources	
Foundation A *(pending)*	
Corporate Sponsor *(committed)*	
State Grant *(pending)*	
TOTAL INCOME	

Application Steps

- Visit our online [grants management system.](#)
    - If you've never used our system before, select "Create New Account."
        - Should you encounter any challenges setting up your account, please email Marcellus (Marcellus@ForBetterHealthPA.org).
    - If you are a returning grantee, use your existing email address and password to access the system.
    - Select "Apply" in the top navigation bar.

- On the next page, select "Apply" in the "Ubuntu" box.

- Complete the General Information Section
    - Project Name
    - Project Theme: See options above under the Project Focus section.
    - Project Description
    - Amount Requested – funding requests of up to $15,000 are welcomed.
    - Geographic Area
    - Funding Type: Select the option that best describes your application.
    - Fiscal Sponsor: Select yes if another organization is a fiscal sponsor for your organization.

- Complete the remaining sections addressing these application requirements:
    - Executive Summary
    - Organization Information
    - Purpose of Project:
        - Leadership Biographies: Include brief bios for key individuals leading the project.
        - Project Plan: Describe in detail the timeline, goals, objectives and a potentially lean but meaningful assessment plan that will document progress with goals and objectives.
        - Potential List of and Specific roles for Steering Committee Members.
        - Information Management Plan: How will you manage all information collected, generated, and produced during this project?
        - Logistical Sharing: How will you keep the appropriate stakeholders informed about important dates and events for the project?
    - Evaluation Plan:
        - How will you know your project was successful? What measures will you use?
        - Progress Tracking: How will you track and communicate progress made during the project?

- Attachments
  - Project Budget (upload using template provided in this document)
  - Beneficiary Statistics (upload form)
  - W-9 Form (upload signed form)
- Budget Narrative
- Other Information: One additional attachment may be uploaded
- Electronic Signature
- Once you submit your application, you will receive an automatic email reply from our grants system.

Appendix C
Project Example

Organization	Rustin for Mental Health
Community	Borough of Rustin, PA, a community with a population of 20,000 residents
Major Issue	Access to care
Specific Challenge	Lack of mental health providers and services
Design	- Bi-weekly resident meetings - Community townhalls - Partnership with elected officials and nonprofit organizations - Engaging workshops by mental health providers - Creation of a shared vision and action plan to increase mental health services in Rustin
Budget	$14,765
Ethos / Our guiding beliefs	- Community: We are committed to solutions that reflect a community centered framework. - Partnerships: We are committed to building equitable and inclusive partnerships at each stage of this project. - Belonging: We envision a future where all Rustin residents feel a sense of belonging.
Major Outcomes	- Establishment of a community-wide Mental Health Services Impact Team - Development of a multiyear plan that utilizes publicly accessible spaces (libraries, municipal building etc.) to be sites of in-person and telehealth mental health services with providers from across Pennsylvania.