



2024 GRANTMAKING FRAMEWORK

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

JANUARY 24, 2024

GENERAL

- If we have a current project-focused grant, can we apply for a New Project Grant or Spark Grant in 2024?
 - Yes, through June 30, 2025, organizations can submit for a New Project grant or Spark grant while having a current active grant(s). It is our hope that starting July 1, 2025, organizations will apply for one grant to encompass all of the projects for which the organization is requesting new or renewal of funding. We are trying to avoid the administrative burden on applicants by submitting multiple applications. We hope that the streamlined applications will help reduce the need for multiple applications and follow-up reports, especially for Spark Grants.

- Can you further define “leading equity work”?
 - Addressing the root causes of poor health among an underserved or marginalized population by:
 - Going beyond meeting basic emergency needs by addressing systems and conditions that create inequities.
 - Using effective and/or innovative strategies in creating positive health outcomes.
 - Fostering collaboration focused on health justice. Health justice requires evaluating and changing systems that create health inequities. To achieve health justice, communities must eliminate discriminatory practices, barriers, and policies to initiate, restore, and cultivate civic, cultural, economic, and political power.
 - Centering people with lived experience in the planning, leadership, and implementation of the work that you are doing. These are people with firsthand experience of the health challenges and inequities being addressed.
 - Utilizing policy and advocacy strategies that build the power of marginalized communities towards systems change.

- When is the new grant process ready to receive applications?
 - Our grant portal reflects the new framework. Applicants can now access the new applications.

- What are the deadlines again for each category of grants?
 - For all grant types, August 1, December 1, and March 1.

- Can we apply for both the project grant and general operating grant on the March 1 deadline?
 - Yes, you can apply for each.

- Can you say more about financial documentation being level set?
 - For Spark grants of \$5,000 or less, we are only asking for the most recent 990 or 990-N. For other larger grants, we are asking for either an Audit ***OR*** most recent 990 or 990-N, Current Statement of Financial Position (also called a Balance Sheet), and Current Statement of Activities (also called a Profit-and-Loss Statement).

- What's the timeline in terms of receiving a grant award after applying?
 - It varies depending upon which grant type. Spark grants are typically reviewed and decided within 30 to 45 days from the deadline date. Other grant applications can be from 2 to 3.5 months to allow for review by the Community Investment Committee and/or the Board of Trustees.

Apply by August 1 – Decision by November 15
 Apply by December 1 – Decision by March 15
 Apply by March 1 – Decision by June 15

- Our agency needs to move forward with a project to help our community. Can we apply and still purchase without official approval on a project grant request or do we have to wait for approval to make the purchase delaying the ability of our community getting better health care? This would be our first time ever doing this grant.
 - No, we do not fund retroactive expenses.

- Is the review process the same with the committee?
 - Like the most recent grantmaking framework since 2017, grant requests over \$5,000 are reviewed by the Community Investment Committee and grant requests over \$50,000 need additional approval by the Board of Trustees.

- What is the total amount of funding available for the general operating grants vs. the project grants vs. the spark grants?
 - Annually, we allocate between \$2M and \$2.5M, depending upon how our investments performed in the preceding three years.

- Will these larger grants be distributed the same as the smaller grants in a one-time sum or distributed in payments?
 - We typically distribute multiple payments for larger grants, but if awarded a grant of more than \$5,000, you can request the frequency and number of payments.

- Is reporting the same for all three grant categories?
 - Reporting templates are still being developed, but larger grants may include more in-depth sharing of progress, learning and outcomes with us to help inform our understanding of both field trends, and your specific challenges and opportunities. However, in addition to online reporting, we will be incorporating conversational reporting for all three types. It can be done by a site visit, telephone, or Zoom. More information will be provided when the report templates are finalized.

GENERAL OPERATING GRANTS

- Will the grant application focus more on the need for general operating costs, or on the work the organization is engaged in?
 - Both. In the application, we ask about administrative, programmatic and/or financial need for a General Operating Grant and how the funds will impact your organization and support your work in advancing health equity.

- We have had a few transitions in leadership in the last year, but now have an executive director in place. What do we need to do to qualify in that respect?
 - In the Leadership and Management section of the application, answer the question about “One Year of Stable Leadership” by explaining how your Board has planned for a successful transition and any recruitment results.

- Can you provide some examples of general operating expenses? Sometimes they are interpreted in different ways.
 - The nature of General Operating is that we are not asking for an organization to provide a breakdown of how the funding will be spent. It is intended to be flexible funding that an organization can allocate as needed for any line item that helps the organization deliver on its mission.

- Should the grant request be below a certain percentage of our general operating budget?
 - There is no cap on the amount as it relates to a percentage of the organization’s operating budget.

- In the General Operating grant application, one of the questions asks for organizational goals. Are you looking for outcome related goals or more strategic related goals?
 - We are looking for both if the organization has developed both types of goals.
- I am just verifying that I understood correctly, there is not a limit to the number of years that you can consecutively request funds through the general operating grants.
 - Correct, but there is no guarantee that subsequent requests will be funded based upon availability of funds and alignment with our grantmaking framework.
- For General Operating Grants, why are organizations with an operating budget greater than \$10,000,000 not eligible?
 - The intent of these types of grants is to lift small and medium sized budget organizations in unrestricted cash, so priority is given to organizations with operating budgets of less than \$10,000,000.

PROJECT GRANTS

- What do you consider a capital project?
 - Examples of Capital Projects that we have funded previously: purchase of cardiac monitor, new playground, rail trail expansion, ADA dock at state park. Basically, construction expenses and equipment purchases.
- My budget for 2024 does not reflect a new project that this grant would fund. Do I need to include this project in my budget?
 - For Project Support Grants, we will want to see a Project Budget but it does not necessarily need to be in your submitted Organizational Budget.