

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What are the 2019-2021 CHNA Priorities for Beacon Health System?

From January to September 2018, Beacon Health System (BHS) conducted a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). We coordinate, align, and focus the resources of Beacon Health System and leverage the resources of other public sector entities and other sectors - including businesses, higher education institutions, health care systems, philanthropies, and not-for-profit organizations - to address these needs from January 2019 through December 2021.

- Healthy Family (Maternal/ Infant/ Perinatal Health)
- Healthy Mind (Mental Health)
- Healthy Body (Obesity)
- Healthy Spirit (Substance Abuse)

What is Community Benefit and how must it align with the proposal?

Community Benefit is defined as programs and activities that provide treatment or promote health and healing in response to an identified community health need and seek to achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- Improving access to health services
- Enhancing public health
- Advancing generalizable knowledge
- Reducing the burden of government to improve health

Proposals must explicitly identify and address at least one of these four Community Benefit objectives.

Community Benefit also needs to include the following:

- Programmatic approaches should incorporate innovation and continuous improvement to optimize use of all resources, improve outcomes, and intentionally achieve long-term impact.
- Consider giving preference to evidence-based programs and practices, while leaving room for promising new approaches.
- Where possible, incorporate successful locally-driven and implemented holistic, multidisciplinary approaches with and for individuals and their families.

Does the organization applying need to be nonprofit in order to be considered?

Yes. Organizations requesting a charitable donation must have not-for-profit status, be in close proximity to Beacon's health care facilities, serve the individuals in our geographic region, and support Beacon's mission to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the communities we serve.

Where is the service area?

The CHNA provided Beacon Health System with a clear picture of current priority health needs in Elkhart, Marshall, and St. Joseph County communities where BHS operates non-profit hospitals. CHNA results are directing BHS' Community Health efforts in collaboration with our clinical and community partners in these three counties, which are our service area.

Are there any excluded areas that Beacon Health System Community Health does not support with funding?

BHS Community Health does not financially support individuals, Athletic Teams, Political Organizations, Meetings, Promotions, Festivals, Raffles, Concerts, or Deficit Funding. We also does not engage in sponsorship or marketing opportunities with nonprofit organizations for the sole purpose of promoting Beacon's corporate name and identity.

If our proposal moves to the phone interview stage who should be on the call?

On the call the BCI staff will look to discuss four main topics:

- Understand the current state of the program and clarify any questions related to programming
- Confirm BCI administrative criteria related to priority and tier and discuss reporting and engagement requirements (overview listed in the Background section)
- Talk through future plans for the program
- Answer any outstanding questions the program has related to requirements or engaging with BCI

We ask that programs include anyone who they feel could be relevant to this discussion. We are open to having as few or many individuals on the call as the program feels is necessary. The typical skill sets that typically participate are program managers, front line staff, data analysts, and executive directors. We completely understand that in some cases this could all be one person.

What happens if our organization's proposal is selected?

Upon selection of your proposal, your organization's program/ project representative(s) will be required to attend an orientation. During orientation we will provide details and guidance on our process for effective reporting. There will also be time for an organization to explore opportunities for forming collaborative partnerships with other organizations.

What do we receive if our organization is selected for Program Development?

Development partners will have access to capacity building activities and networking/collaboration opportunities. In addition, the BCI team is available to provide guidance, assistance, and templates for planning and implementing programs.

What do we receive if our organization is selected for Technical Assistance?

The community partner will receive pro bono technical assistance to improve community health in St. Joseph, Elkhart, and/or Marshall Counties. Community Health will review and assess programmatic needs and from that, help create a project plan that includes a needs assessment, overview of services/deliverables to be provided, and a customized work plan.

What do we receive if our organization is awarded funds for Program Implementation?

Community Impact will award funds to selected participants for up to three years, contingent on:

- Addressing community health needs
- Having the capacity/ resources
- Meeting program objectives
- Demonstrating impact

Partners will also gain access to capacity building activities and networking/collaboration opportunities.

If my organization has previously applied or received funding, can we submit another proposal?

Yes. Your organization can submit another proposal as long as it addresses the goals and objectives of the most current CHNA's health priorities. Please be advised that previous funding is not a guarantee for new funding during this cycle.

If the new proposal is a replication of what an organization previously provided and we have the former proposal on file, you only need to complete the cover letter and logic model documents for re-consideration.

Do I need to complete the proposal in the current format (i.e. cover sheet, logic model, criteria section)?

Yes. The entire format needs to remain intact and be completed. Keeping the same format helps committee members who look over the proposals to easily identify information and review it in a thorough and timely manner.

If I have questions about the RFP who do I contact?

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