

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



What are the 2022-2024 CHNA Priorities for Beacon Health System?

Beginning in January 2021, Beacon Health System (BHS) undertook completing a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This assessment focused on creating a better understanding of the health needs of the Beacon Community (Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties) and the response necessary to address the need. Data was collected through secondary data collection, a key informant survey, and community focus groups on a variety of topics centered on health indicators and social determinants of health.

We will coordinate, align, and focus the resources of BHS 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 2022 through December 2024.

- Mental Health
- Healthcare Access (Health Literacy)

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.

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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 specific for the grant funds?

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 Impact 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 Impact does not support with funding?

BHS Community Impact does not financially support individuals, Athletic Teams, Political Organizations, Meetings, Promotions, Festivals, Raffles, Concerts, or Deficit Funding. We also do 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 virtual interview stage who should be present?

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.

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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 Technical Assistance?

Beacon Community Impact has created a team (nicknamed the Health Equity & Outcomes Team) focused on providing technical services to our partners. Their focus is supporting the work of the programs by providing project based assistance in an effort to increase the capacity of our community to address its most pressing health needs. If a program applies for technical assistance the team will work one-on-one with organizations to help identify potential opportunities, develop strategies for improvement, and assist with implementation.

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 technical assistance 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, due to the new CHNA cycle, we ask that you complete the entire application process.

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Do I need to complete the proposal in the current format via the online application process?

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?

Kimberly Green Reeves, Director Community Impact
kgreenreeves@beaconhealthsystem.org