



## **COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund FAQs**

*All documents available in Spanish upon request.  
Estos documentos están disponibles a petición del interesado.*

### **What is the purpose of the COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund?**

The North Carolina Healthcare Foundation (NCHF) has established the COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund to partner with private philanthropy, corporate partners, and major gift donors to aggregate and deploy resources to areas of most need across North Carolina. The Fund is most interested in addressing needs not otherwise met through state or federal support.

### **What are the Fill the Gap Response Fund's initial priorities?**

The Fill the Gap Response Fund will support North Carolina's people and places disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Fund will partner with organizations intentionally addressing health disparities worsened by the COVID-19 crisis. It will further prioritize those serving essential frontline workers, as well as communities and populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

### **Will the priorities change?**

We are in an unprecedented time and do not know what needs will emerge over the next several weeks and months. Priority areas for additional phases of funding may shift and expand, depending on community needs and government response. However, all grantmaking will continue to focus on disparities created or worsened by the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Who is eligible to receive grants from the Fill the Gap Response Fund?**

Based upon the charitable structure of the COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund, grants are limited to:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- Public sector agencies serving rural North Carolina counties
- Religious organizations with or without a non-profit designation

We are not able to fund:

- Individuals
- For-profit businesses
- Labor unions or
- 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5) and 501(c)(6) organizations

### **Is there a geographic area of focus for the Fill the Gap Response Fund?**

Organizations must be providing services in North Carolina.

### **What size grants will the COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund award?**

Award amounts will vary based on organizational capacity, scope of services provided, community needs, and total resources available. Awards will range between \$25,000 and \$150,000 in the initial round of funding.

**How are grantees selected and how quickly will decisions be made?**

The COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund Advisory Committee will review applications for funding. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by May 31, 2020.

**Who will conduct the grants solicitation and funding process?**

The COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund Advisory Committee representatives are:

Allen Smart | Consultant | Rural Philanthropy | *Ex-Officio*

Juan Austin | Senior Vice President of Corporate Philanthropy and Community Relations | Wells Fargo

Ret Boney | Executive Director | North Carolina Network of Grantmakers

Nicole Dozier | Director, Health Advocacy Project | North Carolina Justice Center

Erika Ferguson | Director, Healthy Opportunities | North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Jeffrey Simms | Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management | Gillings School of Global Public Health

Julia Wacker | Senior Vice President | North Carolina Healthcare Foundation

**Can my organization submit proposals for more than one need?**

A single organization may submit only one proposal. A single proposal may include up to three related activities, which total no more than the funding cap of \$150,000.

**Will proposals that serve large geographies or more people receive priority?**

While factors such as the number of people and counties served will be considered, proposals with limited numbers and geographies will also be competitive.

**Will proposals from larger or more established organizations receive priority?**

No. The Fund will consider applications from smaller and less established organizations that show potential for significant impact.

**What are some factors that will be prioritized in reviewing the proposals?**

Proposals reflecting one or more of the following will be prioritized: (1) projects targeting the under and uninsured (2) proposals that incorporate long-term impacts, in addition to current needs (3) proposals that focus on responding to and creating resources for individuals experiencing trauma, interpersonal violence, or behavioral health needs and (4) applications from organizations led by person(s) from underrepresented groups.

**We are a committee or other informal partnership that has come together to help our community respond to COVID-19. Are we eligible to apply?**

Yes, as long as the proposal is submitted by an eligible organization.

**Do we need to be a direct service provider to be eligible?**

No, we anticipate that there may be competitive proposals that are not for direct services.

**How much time will elapse before Round #2 is announced?**

At this time, we anticipate that a second round of funding will be announced in early June.

**Do we have to propose something “new” to be competitive for the funding?**

No. Work that is ongoing but is being adapted for the COVID-19 crisis is eligible and competitive.

**What is the definition of rural that is being used?**

The fund will use the definition used by the North Carolina Rural Center (<https://www.ncruralcenter.org/about-us/>) which identifies 80 North Carolina counties as rural.

**What are considered social and behavioral health needs?**

The Centers for Disease Control defines these as “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play which affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.” These conditions are known as social determinants of health. (<https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/index.htm>)

**Who is considered an essential frontline worker?**

For the purposes of initial grant making, essential frontline workers are defined as any health care provider, emergency personnel, or other staff who provide support services. These include administrative, food service, security, facilities maintenance, cleaning, and other services to hospitals, other non-hospital health care, and/or health adjacent entities.

**Can we apply for capital needs?**

Requests for capital will be considered as long as the request is connected to short or long-term COVID-19 needs.

**Can we apply for indirect costs?**

Indirect costs are allowable but may not exceed 10% for program requests and 5% for capital requests. The total budget, including indirect, may not exceed \$150,000.

**Can we request funding for existing position(s)?**

Funding for existing position(s) is eligible, as long as the project narrative justifies how the existing position(s) will support the proposed COVID-19 response effort.

**If we are not selected for funding, can we apply again in a future round of funding?**

While we have not worked out the process yet, no applicants will be prevented from submitting proposals for subsequent rounds if not successful in a previous round.

**Who is making the COVID-19 Fund possible?**

Please visit [www.ncha.org/fill-the-gap](http://www.ncha.org/fill-the-gap) to review a complete list of funding partners.

**I would like to contribute to the Fund, where should I send my donation?**

Please contact Jai Kumar, Strategy & Program Development Officer, at (919) 677-4157 or [jkumar@ncha.org](mailto:jkumar@ncha.org).