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## 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) established the COVID-19 Fill the Gap Response Fund to aggregate the resources of private philanthropy, corporate partners, and major gift donors to meet critical needs not addressed through state or federal COVID-19 funds.

### **What are the Fill the Gap Response Fund's Round 2 priorities?**

The Fill the Gap Response Fund will support North Carolina's people and places disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and specifically, efforts to intentionally address health disparities worsened by the crisis. Applications should be consistent with the mission of the North Carolina Healthcare Foundation: *"to foster and accelerate the collective impact of hospitals, health systems, and community partners to improve the health of North Carolinians."*

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

The committee will prioritize the following: (1) proposals from organizations committed to racial equity both internally and through their programs (2) proposals that are collaborations among multiple organizations actively working together (3) proposals addressing domestic violence and trauma and/or (4) proposals from Indigenous tribal/Native American/American Indian communities or that directly address services for that population.

### **What types of proposals will not be considered?**

The committee will not consider the following: (1) proposals for funding to be regranted (2) proposals without a strong connection to COVID-19 (3) proposals for revenue replacement, including lost fundraising event revenue and (4) proposals for COVID-19 testing. Incomplete applications will also not be considered.

### **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

NOTE: It is not required that the applicant partner with a healthcare organization to be eligible to receive grants from the Fill the Gap Response fund.

**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. Individual organizations may request funds up to \$150,000. Collaborative applications of two (2) or more organizations may submit a shared budget of up to \$250,000. Applications with requests that exceed these limits will not be considered.

**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 July 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

Jeffery Sims | 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 which totals no more than the funding cap of \$150,000. Collaborative applications of two (2) or more organizations working together may submit a joint proposal with a shared budget up to \$250,000. Proposals may include up to four related activities.

**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 is considered a collaboration?**

A collaborative application consists of two unique organizations that are actively working together to jointly accomplish the objectives of the program described in the grant application.

The organizations do not need to have any formal governance relationship (i.e., management agreement, system affiliation, etc.). The collaboration, however, must clearly identify how the partnership model extends grant funds in a manner that is above and beyond individual applications from each organization.

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

**We are a public health agency, university, or other governmental agency and do not have a 990. What else can we submit?**

Various departments/schools within universities may apply. Please indicate if they have unique tax IDs or a unique nonprofit tax status. As a governmental agency, please submit documentation of nonprofit status in place of the Form 990.

**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.

**What time period should the budget cover? When do the funds need to be spent?**

We anticipate that awards will be distributed in July. Proposal budgets may start in July or August. Funds must be spent within 12 months of the award date (July 2021). Grantees will submit a one-page report midway through the grant period and a two-page summary at the end. The format of these reports is still to be determined.

**What does the "Fiscal Year 2020 YTD Budget" mean in the request?**

The request is for your organization's 2019-2020 operating budget (budgeted vs actuals YTD) will suffice.

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

No. Proposals that describe work that is ongoing but being adapted for the COVID-19 crisis are 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 the social determinants of health.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/index.htm>)

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

For the purposes of this fund, essential healthcare 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 for single organization applications and \$250,000 for collaborative applications

**Can we remove the automatic indirect cost calculation?**

You may remove the 10% indirect calculation. However, please include a note in the budget template explaining the justification for removing indirect costs.

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

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

**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.

**Can we talk to someone before we apply? We are doing XXXX, are we eligible?**

Due to the number of applications and time constraints, the Fund is not able to offer personal guidance to each program interested in applying. However, you can read about the purpose of the fund and eligibility requirements [here](#). If you have specific questions that are not answered in this document, please email us directly at [covidrelief@ncha.org](mailto:covidrelief@ncha.org).

**I am having difficulty downloading application documents. What should I do?**

Please ensure you are using Chrome or Firefox and disable pop-up blockers. If you continue experiencing technical difficulty, please email us directly at [covidrelief@ncha.org](mailto:covidrelief@ncha.org).

**I can't find the Section headings.**

The section headings are in the Proposal Guidelines. You will use the headings from items A-F.

**What is the Organizational Overview Questionnaire?**

The Organizational Overview Questionnaire is a required document that you will need to download, answer all four (4) parts, and attach along with your other required application materials.

**What are the formatting requirements (i.e., margins, spacing) for the Proposal Narrative?**

Currently, the Fund does not have specific formatting requirements beyond the two-page limit. Please submit all documents in an easily reproducible format such as .doc, .pdf for narratives and .xls or .xlsx for budgets and follow the document naming guidelines. Please ensure that all files follow the approved naming convention in the Proposal Guidelines document.

**Our organization was approved for funding in Round 1, can we apply again in later rounds?**

Yes, you may apply again. However, your application must demonstrate a new project or new component of the previously funded project (i.e., new responsibilities, new programming, etc).

**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)