

Providing Climate Change and Health Community Support at the Local Level – Gulf South

Request for Proposals

The CDC Foundation is currently accepting proposals for states surrounding the Gulf South region to participate in the Climate and Health Community Support cohort. For the purposes of this RFP, the Gulf South region includes Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, with a special focus on coastal communities. Selected CBOs will receive up to \$100,000 in funding to support their effort and participation in the initiative from July 2024 through December 2024, with the potential for extensions in 2025 and 2026.

Summary of RFP

The Climate and Health initiative is a partnership between CDC Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH). This initiative will convene a cohort of community-based organizations (CBOs) to develop climate adaptation and data collection plans; participate in virtual and in-person peer learning opportunities and receive technical assistance from CDC Foundation and NCEH staff. While there are 16 in the cohort, this RFP is for funding 8 CBOs in the Gulf South region. If selected under the Climate and Health initiative, the CBO will receive up to \$100,000 in funding to support their effort and participation in the initiative from July 2024 through December 2024, with the potential for extensions in 2025 and 2026.

The CDC Foundation recognizes that achieving health equity will only happen as we work together. Multi-organization collaboration is welcome and strongly encouraged, especially by partnering with state, local, or tribal health agencies. Organizations that collaborate on proposals are encouraged to compensate partners appropriately for their contributions and to consider equity in deciding how resources are distributed among partner organizations.

Timeline

RFP released	May 2 nd , 2024
Deadline to submit application	May 31 st , 2024, 11:59pm EST
Anticipated application review period	June 3 rd – 14 th , 2024
Anticipated notice of selection status	June 17 th , 2024, 5:00pm EST,
Anticipated project period	July/August 2024 – December 31 st , 2024 (with potential for extension until 2025 and 2026)

Initiative Background

Purpose

Climate change and the disasters it causes are [the greatest health threat of the 21st century](#). Related threats to health include increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease; injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events; water- and vector-borne diseases; and threats to food security, mental health and wellbeing. Everyone is at-risk of health impacts associated with climate change, but not all are impacted equally. In fact, communities that have contributed the least to climate change are those most threatened by and vulnerable to the changing climate. In places where infrastructure is weak, communities will struggle to cope with negative impacts to social and environmental determinants of health. Support is needed to help prepare communities to respond to future disasters and health challenges caused by climate change, including secondary disaster exposure, i.e. heat.

With support from the Gulf Research Program (GRP) of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), the Climate and Health initiative will provide 8 grants of up to \$100,000, as well as peer mentorship, partnership, and subject matter expertise to build community strength against the negative health effects of climate change. Together, we will support implementation of local disaster preparedness programs through community-based organizations (CBOs) in U.S. states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico, with a special focus on coastal communities in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Levels of Engagement

From July 2024 to December 2024, CBOs will engage in the following:

Activity	Timeframe
Virtual kick-off meeting with the CDC Foundation project team to lay the groundwork for the project.	July 2024
Two-day, in-person convening with Climate and Health Community Support cohort, CDC Foundation, and NCEH teams.	September/October 2024
Expert technical assistance and thought partnership tailored to your specific needs and assets.	Ongoing
Virtual networking and relationship building opportunities across CBOs and NCEH staff.	Ongoing

Pending future funding, CBOs will engage in the following activities through 2026:

Activity	Timeframe
Annual, two-day, in-person convening with Climate and Health Community Support cohort, CDC Foundation, and NCEH teams.	September/October 2025, and 2026
Quarterly peer learning sessions to elevate ongoing implementation challenges and best practices to implement climate adaptation initiatives across various populations and geographic contexts.	January 2025- August 2026
Expert technical assistance and thought partnership tailored to your specific needs and assets.	Ongoing
Virtual networking and relationship building opportunities across CBOs and NCEH staff.	Ongoing

Program Commitments

By applying to participate in this initiative, the CBO agrees to the following:

- Develop and implement climate adaptation initiatives that increase disaster preparedness and resilience of their local community members, leveraging multi-organization collaboration with other CBOs, and state, local, or tribal public health agencies when appropriate
- Use program and peer and learnings to develop action-oriented, equity-driven, preparedness plans and data collection activities that increase community’s ability to respond to local disasters
- Participate in peer learning and technical assistance activities, including virtual and in-person convenings over the project period
- Participate in evaluation efforts conducted by the CDC Foundation, including completing pre- and post-assessments, key informant interviews and focus groups. The findings will be shared back to assist in your own project and program improvement efforts
- Participate in communications activities to tell your story about your experience and what you are learning and accomplishing, including but not limited to, photos and videos highlighting your team’s experience, interviews for blogs and media, social media posts and other promotional content. The communications materials developed will be shared back to use in your communications about your work.

Grant Details

The CDC Foundation will offer 8 grants of up to \$100,000 to CBO's working in the Gulf South region to support community-based and community-led work that creates a sustainable foundation for cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination to develop or implement equitable disaster preparedness plans and improved localized data collection.

What We Will Fund

Projects implemented in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, with a special focus on coastal communities that aim to:

- Develop or implement community-driven disaster preparedness plans by leveraging cross-sector partnerships
- Develop, implement, or refine monitoring and surveillance data to improve decision making for local disaster relief and preparedness initiatives
- Accelerate implementation of innovative climate adaptation approaches to reach impacted communities, e.g. aging adults, rural communities, and racial and ethnic minorities

What We Will Not Fund

- Ongoing operating costs, unrelated to supporting focus areas/activities;
- Capital Improvements, unrelated to furthering focus areas activities; or
- Political/lobbying activities.
- BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP), Transocean Deepwater, Inc. (Transocean), their affiliates, and employees are not eligible to receive or participate in any grant funding.

Funding Specifics

- Up to eight awards will be made to CBOs in an amount up to \$100,000.
- Pending funding to CDC Foundation, CBOs have the potential for extensions in 2025 and 2026 to continue program implementation.
- Funding must be used for the purposes described in the application and must be committed between the date of award and December 31st, 2024, with potential for extension in 2025 and 2026.
- If the CBO is applying on behalf of a coalition, one organization that is a CBO within the coalition must serve as the fiscal sponsor.
- U.S. federal agencies are not eligible to receive GRP funding as applicants or subawardees, although their employees may be non-funded collaborators.
- U.S. organizations may partner with international organizations; a U.S. organization must be the applicant, but applicants may include key personnel from and subawards to non-U.S. organizations.
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and University Affiliated Research Centers (UCARCs) can be named as sub-awardees, however, they must have the authority to obtain funding for work outside of its federal sponsor contact and not be proposing to do work it is otherwise doing under its federal sponsor contract.

Application Details

Alignment and Eligibility Criteria

Applicants should consider the following criteria when assessing whether they are a good fit to participate in the Climate and Health Community Support cohort. If your organization meets the criteria, then see below on how to apply.

- ✓ Resides or enacts initiatives in states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.
- ✓ Focus on addressing inequities for historically and currently marginalized populations.
- ✓ Have potential for buy-in and active involvement of community, public health and other pertinent leaders.
- ✓ Have prior experience with (or willingness to engage in) collaboration between multi-sector organizations, including other CBO partners, and local, state or tribal public health agencies.
- ✓ Have a commitment to implement and sustain efforts for the long term.
- ✓ Capacity to attend and participate in the program commitments listed above.

The CBO should be an organization that works at the local and state level, using their deep connections and role as a trusted resource within the community to improve a community's social, physical, economic and emotional health, wellbeing and overall vitality. Further, organizations must:

- ✓ Have leadership or project team members who authentically identify with the community being served.
- ✓ Be recognized by their state of incorporation as a non-profit organization;
- ✓ Have sustainable operations, be in good financial standing and have a proven record of program effectiveness. The CDC Foundation reserves the right to conduct applicants' financial and due diligence reviews; and
- ✓ Be an equal opportunity employer with all-inclusive membership that does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, country of national origin or nationality, age, religion, intellectual or physical disabilities and military or veteran status in its activities or operations.

Application Components

All applicants are required to submit the application by completing the [online application form](#) by **11:59pm EST, May 31st, 2024**. Please collect all required information before attempting to enter it in the online application, as **there is no option to save and return to your work if the application is only partially completed**.

The CDC Foundation is committed to providing accessible materials. If any of our documents or links present accessibility challenges, please email Sabrina Thomas at sthomas@cdcfoundation.org with the subject line “Accessibility Assistance for Climate and Health Project.” We will gladly work with you to provide the information in a different format.

Please include the following information:

1. **Fiscal Information** including the contact and mailing information for the CBO or collation fiscal sponsor organization, Federal Tax Identification Number/Employer Identification Number (EIN), Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number, SAM Unique Entity ID (UEI) and non-profit status. Please email Sabrina Thomas, sthomas@cdcfoundation.org, with any questions or for assistance regarding the financial information.
2. **Project Description** in either the written or video application:
 - i. **Capacity statement:** A description of who you are and your experience supporting climate adaptation initiatives in your community, emphasizing how you meet the alignment and eligibility criteria.
 - ii. **Approach:** A description of the local activities you’d like to enact, goals you would like to achieve, and how the program commitments would benefit your organization and the community you serve. **Please also describe what activities you would implement if you were to receive a project timeframe extension beyond 2024 with no additional funds.**
 - iii. **Community engagement:** A description of how you will engage the community in all aspects of the project.
 - iv. **Collaboration:** Provide examples of how your organization has worked collectively in the past and to develop, implement, and gather buy-in for climate adaptation initiatives, emphasizing your efforts with your partners, which may include but not limited to other CBOs, and state, local, or tribal public health agencies.

Oftentimes grant applications can be time consuming and burdensome. The CDC Foundation intentionally developed a streamlined video and written application process to reduce barriers to applying for grant funds. The application process is outlined below.

Written: provide short responses (no more than 500 words) to each of the four project questions (see #2 Project Description a-d above) in this application (2000 words total). You do not need to use the full word count.

- OR-

Video: record a simple video up to 12 minutes long with your responses to the four project questions; you may have up to 2 people in the video. You do not need to use the full amount of time. Upload as an unlisted video to YouTube and provide the link in [the application form](#). This should be a simple recording of yourself speaking on your webcam or phone. In order to maintain fairness among applicants with different resource capacities, videos with additional footage, camera work and editing will not be reviewed. Instructions on how to upload an unlisted video are available [via this link](#).

3. Application Attachments

- i. Budget and Narrative
 - a) Please download the Budget Narrative document on the RFP page and complete your organization's proposed budget for the following project periods
 1. August 1st, 2024-December 31st, 2026
 2. January 1st, 2025- December 31st, 2025
 3. January 1st, 2026 – December 31st, 2026
 - b) Please include an estimate for travel for three, annual two-day in-person convenings for two members from your organization between September – October 2024 (see budget tool for estimates).
- ii. Required Financial Documentation:
 - a) Audited Balance Sheet and Income Statement (preferably most current year, 2024, or no older year than 2022) AND/OR
 - b) IRS 990 Tax Form (preferably most current year, 2023, or no older than year 2022) *An IRS 990-N is not sufficient*

4. Applicant Contact Person Information

- i. Point of contact first and last name
- ii. Title
- iii. Email and phone number

Application Evaluation Criteria

All written and video applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

Capacity Statement

- Do the applicants clearly describe the organization’s mission and goals?
- Do the applicants clearly describe how they are uniquely positioned to address the challenges their community faces?
- Do the applicants address how they meet the alignment criteria?

Approach

- Are there measurable goals identified?
- Is the approach compelling, innovative, evidence-based, and contributes to systems-level changes?
- Does the proposed approach leverage grantee activities already planned or in progress through other funding sources?
- Do the applicants explain what their organization and/or community gain from the program commitments?

Community Engagement

- Do the applicants clearly specify how they will engage the community through all aspects of the project, including through participatory approaches and community responsiveness?
- Do the applicants demonstrate the robust community connections and commitment required to ensure they can carry out and have continued buy-in for project activities?

Collaboration

- Does the applicant seek to create synergies and eliminate or avoid duplication of effort?
- Do the applicants clearly explain their relationships and how they will collaborate with multiple organizations, including but not limited to other CBOs, and state, local, or tribal health agencies?

Budget and Narrative

- Is it feasible to implement strategies and demonstrate progress towards intended outcomes as proposed, within the term of the grant period and amount of funding requested?
- Does the application clearly describe how funding will be utilized to achieve desired impact?
- Is the budget reasonable/appropriate for proposed objective(s)/approach?
- Did the organization submit a budget that reflects the first year of the project period of August 1st, 2024 – December 31st, 2024?
- Did the organization submit a budget that reflects an additional project period of January 1st, 2025– December 31st, 2025, and January 1st, 2026 - December 31st, 2026?