Supporting Community Organizations to Strengthen Vaccine Confidence Pilot Project: RFP Applicant Questions

**Q1.** For this RFP, should the focus be on increasing confidence related to uptake of a specific vaccine or related to vaccines in general?  
**A1.** This RFP is intended to support efforts to build vaccine confidence and acceptance in support of vaccines overall and to improve awareness of and trust in immunization as a critical foundation of individual, family, and community health. Successful applicants may include an emphasis on vaccines of increased importance within the target population(s) but should communicate about specific vaccines in the context of the importance of immunization across the lifespan.

**Q2.** Our organization is a nonprofit Home Health Agency that is deeply involved in the provision of our state’s vaccine response, including SLVC and community clinics. Would we be considered an eligible CBO by the definition of this RFP?  
**A2.** Eligible applicants are nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Community Based Organizations (tax exempt status documentation must be provided). Examples of CBOs can include faith-based organizations, vaccine advocacy organizations, public health focused associations, civic and social organizations and other organizations that have the capacity to educate and engage communities at risk for VPD outbreaks related to under-immunization.

**Q3.** Can nonprofit hospitals apply for the vaccine confidence grant?  
**A3.** Eligible applicants are nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Community Based Organizations (tax exempt status documentation must be provided). Examples of CBOs can include faith-based organizations, vaccine advocacy organizations, public health focused associations, civic and social organizations that have the capacity to educate and engage communities at risk for VPD outbreaks related to under-immunization.

**Q4.** How can we as a community pharmacy can partner up to assist with this great mission? What avenues/options do we have?  
**A4.** We suggest contacting your state immunization program to determine whether any eligible organizations in your jurisdiction may be applying for the RFP opportunity and seeking community partners. Collaborations among CBOs, immunization, and public health organizations, including community pharmacies, are encouraged. Contact information for state immunization programs can be found at: https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/page/MemPage

**Q5.** I did not see social media or other media mentioned as a possible strategy. Are they?  
**A5.** Yes, if social media or media is relevant for reaching the local community.

**Q6.** Do all activities of the project end before July 31st, in order to get CDCF deliverables on time?  
**A6.** No, the activities do not necessarily need to end before July 31st to complete the CDCF deliverables on time. However, it is up to the awardee to determine the appropriate timeline for the activities so that the deliverables are completed on time.
Q7. Is a public university allowed to apply?
A7. Eligible applicants are nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Community Based Organizations (tax exempt status documentation must be provided). Examples of CBOs can include faith-based organizations, vaccine advocacy organizations, public health focused associations, civic and social organizations and other organizations that have the capacity to educate and engage communities at risk for VPD outbreaks related to under-immunization.

Q8. Would a Home Health Agency partnering with local trusted partners be eligible to apply (i.e. would be considered a CBO?)
A8. Eligible applicants are nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Community Based Organizations (tax exempt status documentation must be provided). Examples of CBOs can include faith-based organizations, vaccine advocacy organizations, public health focused associations, civic and social organizations and other organizations that have the capacity to educate and engage communities at risk for VPD outbreaks related to under-immunization.

Q9. Can you please clarify if children are intended to be the priority population or parents to have their children immunized?? Or, can other populations to receive their vaccinations, e.g. adults to receive flu vaccinations.
A9. The project is broad and the focus is immunization within the family and the broader community across the lifespan. The overarching goal is to build confidence in immunization as an important health action to protect individual family and community health.

Q10. Can the targeted audiences geographically defined? For example, can we target a specific city, or is each project supposed to be national in scope?
A10. Yes. It is anticipated that there will be geographical targeting to reach at risk communities. The projects won’t be national in scope.

Q11. Is this project eligible for indirect costs? If so, what is the upper limit?
A11. Indirect costs are not allowed in this proposal.

Q12. Are nonprofit health system eligible to apply if collaborating with a variety of local CBO partners? We’d have the most capacity to manage the grant admin duties out of all partners.
A12. Eligible applicants are nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Community Based Organizations (tax exempt status documentation must be provided). Examples of CBOs can include faith-based organizations, vaccine advocacy organizations, public health focused associations, civic and social organizations and other organizations that have the capacity to educate and engage communities at risk for VPD outbreaks related to under-immunization.

Q13. What kind of reach is the CDC looking for as far as community population? for only 6 awards to be given out, I imagine larger scale CBOs would be favored.
A13. CDCF and CDC are not looking at a larger or smaller reach for this project. This project will support CBOs fostering trusted relationships between members of the community and people within the community who can be trusted ambassadors that can be effective health messengers on behalf of immunizations.

Q14. Is a list of support organizations and maybe 1 sentence ok, with attached letters of support (knowing that they may not be reviewed)?
A14. Yes, this information can be provided.
Q15. Are the budget and budget narrative part of the 12 pages? May the budget and its narrative be single-spaced?
A15. Yes, the budget and budget narrative are part of the 12 pages. Please use the budget template that was provided on the CDCF RFP page for this project. The narrative within the template provided can be single spaced.  https://www.cdcfoundation.org/request-for-proposals

Q16. Also does CDCF have a preference for working with specific Myth-targeted populations? Or is it enough to target communities at risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease, who may or may not be specific myth-targets?
A16. At risk communities don’t need to be identified as specific myth targeted populations. The at risk communities may be identified based on the different demographic characteristics.

Q17. Is a nationwide focus also allowed when looking at working to provide vaccine confidence (from a nationally focused organization)
A17. Yes, using a nationwide focus is acceptable.

Q18. Is there a minimum target audience reach # (how many people) that the proposals must design for?
A18. There is no minimum target audience reach.

Q19. So related to being community vs nationally based, could a population be for example, rural or frontier populations?
A19. Yes.

Q20. Given there will only be 6 awards, are you looking for a variety of target populations such as rural/urban, race/ethnicity, age groups, etc.?
A20. There is no criteria related to making awards out to a specific number of rural/urban, race/ethnicity, and age groups.

Q21. In Section IV of the RFP, I don't see anywhere where we are supposed to talk about evaluation - should we include information about how we will evaluate the project, and what data we will collect to do so?
A21. There is not a strong evaluation component in this project outside of collecting available metrics, looking at lessons learned as stated in the deliverable section of the RFP.

Q22. Is there a sustainability component we will need to address for work beyond the program period?
A22. No, this is a one year project and there is no information available on whether the mechanism of funding for this project will continue beyond the program period.

Q23. Since you referred to this as a "pilot", might there be an opportunity for follow up funding?
A23. This is no information available on whether this mechanism of funding for this project will continue.

Q24. Are there links to similar projects/ that have been funded previously like this that are available?
A24. No, there are currently no links to similar projects available.