



TO: Prospective Applicants
FROM: Eric DeWald, President
SUBJECT: Community Connections 2020 Application Process and Guidelines
Date: February 27, 2020

The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio has launched our 2020 Community Connections initiative. We will host informational webinars in March 2020; while these are not mandatory, we highly recommend attending before submitting your proposal. Applicants may apply for general operating support grants of \$8,000 over 2 years (\$4,000 per year). HealthPath expects to fund up to 20 grants this year.

In 2020, Community Connections is focusing on organizations that have strong community engagement strategies and that achieve Age-Friendly Communities, Cavity-Free Kids, and Healthy Ohioans. Organizations serving Northeast and Southwest Ohio are eligible to apply this round (see “Eligibility” on page 3 for more information).

We will be hosting two live introductory webinars on March 10 and March 12, 2020. (Please see the Timeline on page 3 for the registration links.) The content of both sessions will be the same; you need only attend one. We will record the first and post it to our website for those who cannot attend either webinar. You may begin working on your proposal at any time, but we highly recommend that you attend a live webinar or watch the recording before submitting your final proposal.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is no later than 12:00 noon ET on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Proposals must be submitted through [our online application system](#). HealthPath implemented a new online application system in 2016. If you have not applied to us in the last four years, you will need to create a new account for yourself. Please contact us if you have any questions. Please contact us if you have any questions.

For questions concerning the Community Connections initiative or proposal, please contact Christine Mulvin, Senior Program Officer, at christine.mulvin@healthpathohio.org or 513-768-6117. Complete information about the Community Connections initiative is available [on our website](#).

Community Connections 2020

Recognizing that changes in health and healthy behaviors can only come about if they are rooted in a local community’s strengths, the 2020 Community Connections initiative will focus on organizations that support their communities as they identify the changes they want to see

and work to reach their goals. We are interested in organizations that foster community-driven, community-led projects and see the people they serve and their community as partners and co-creators, rather than as passive recipients of services. These organizations must also be working in HealthPath's service area to achieve our result areas:

- Age-Friendly Communities: Older adults live and participate in communities to their fullest potential, free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Cavity-Free Kids: Ohio's children ages 0–12 have healthy mouths
- Healthy Ohioans: Ohioans have access to the resources they need to be healthy, including access to care and healthy food

If you have questions about whether your organization's community engagement strategy or work within the result area will be a good fit with this initiative, please contact Christine Mulvin, Senior Program Officer, at christine.mulvin@healthpathohio.org or 513-768-6117.

How May Grant Funds Be Used?

HealthPath will award two-year general operating support grants of \$8,000 over 2 years (\$4,000 per year) to nonprofit organizations that demonstrate strong community engagement and work to achieve the result area(s). Grantees may use the funds on any organization expenses. There is no required budget form or budget reporting.

How Will Proposals Be Reviewed?

HealthPath will convene volunteer proposal readers to review the proposals, provide context about the communities in which the applicants work, and make recommendations for funding. Proposal readers will participate in a training session and receive a cohort of proposals for review in mid-April 2020. The panels will meet in May to discuss proposals and provide feedback to HealthPath staff, who will summarize the recommendations to present to the board in June. The HealthPath Board of Trustees will make the final decision on which proposals are funded.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the volunteer proposal reader panel, please visit [the Community Connections Grant Proposal Reviewer web page](#) for more information.

What Are the Criteria HealthPath Will Use to Make Funding Decisions?

Successful proposals will demonstrate:

- That the applicant meets the eligibility requirements (see "Eligibility" on page 3 for more information)
- How the organization achieves the result area(s) within the eligible counties
- Strong community engagement activities that occur within the eligible counties
- Meaningful engagement experiences through a story

Important Dates and Reporting Requirements

Timeline

Thursday, February 27, 2020	RFP released
Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. ET	Pre-Application Session #1 (register here)
Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ET	Pre-Application Session #2 (register here)
Tuesday, April 14, at 12:00 noon ET	Full proposals due
May 7-26, 2020	Review panels meet to discuss proposals
June 2019	HealthPath staff will submit recommendations to the board for review and final approval
June 12, 2020	The Foundation will announce which proposals will be funded
July 1, 2020	Grant period begins and Year 1 funds disbursed
Summer/Fall 2020	Community Connections Luncheon (date TBD)
May 2021	Year 1 Check-in Call due (Information will be sent in April 2021)
June 2021	Year 2 funds disbursed
July 2022	Final Reports due (Information will be sent in May 2022)

Note: both webinars will be live and will cover the same information. You need only attend one. We will also record the first one and post it on our website.

Grantee Reports

The grant term will run from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022. There are two (2) reports grantees will be required to complete:

- Year 1 Check-in Call (May 2021): This will be a phone call with HealthPath staff to talk about community engagement activities and work towards achieving the result area(s) that occurred in Year 1. This call will be due just before the end of Year 1 to allow for more seamless funding between Years 1 and 2. The second year of funding will be released in June 2021 upon completion of a satisfactory check-in call.
- Final Report (July 2022): This will be an online report that describes work in Year 2, how the organization will continue both community engagement and the work in the result area(s), and what the organization has learned. We will send grantees a link to the report at least 4 weeks before it is due.

Eligibility

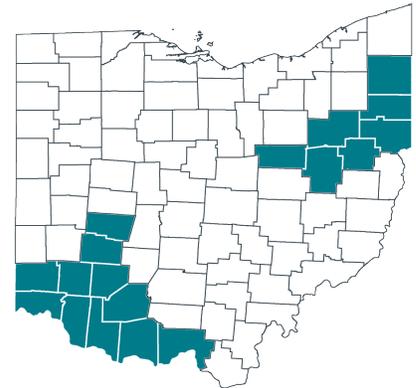
Neighborhood associations, social and civic organizations, youth groups, school groups, 4-H clubs, scout troops, senior centers, faith-based organizations, health and social service care providers, schools or school districts, colleges or universities, and other organizations are eligible to apply. The Foundation will also consider grant requests from government or quasi-government agencies that demonstrate a strong relationship with the community.

If the association, club, or group interested is not an eligible organization (see below), it must select a lead organization that will serve as fiscal agent if a grant is awarded. The lead organization must meet the eligibility criteria and will serve as the applicant for the proposal.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for funding, an organization must meet all of the following criteria:

- Directly serve residents living in at least 1 of the 18 counties in Northeast or Southwest Ohio (see teal-shaded counties in the map)
- Work toward achieving at least 1 of the 3 HealthPath result areas (Age-Friendly Communities, Cavity-Free Kids, or Healthy Ohioans)
- Be a 501(c)(3) or other nonprofit organization; a nonprofit school, school district, college, or university; or a governmental or quasi-governmental organization



Adams	Clinton	Mahoning
Brown	Columbiana	Scioto
Butler	Greene	Stark
Carroll	Hamilton	Trumbull
Clark	Highland	Tuscarawas
Clermont	Holmes	Warren

Organizations located outside the counties that are eligible this year are welcome to apply as long as they provide direct services to at least 1 of the 18 counties. Proposals from these organizations will be assessed on the organization's work and community engagement within the 18 counties.

Proposal Guidelines

In the application, we are asking applicants to describe their work in at least 1 of the 18 counties eligible this year (see map above), including:

- the direct services they provide
- how they achieve the HealthPath result area(s)
- their community engagement strategy
- a story of how they engaged someone

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Applicants must submit their proposals via [our online application system](#) no later than 12:00 noon ET on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.