



AFC 2023 Responsive Grants Technical Assistance Meetings - NOTES

Meeting #1

- 1 participant from: Signature Health

Topic: AFC 2023 Responsive Grants Technical Assistance Meeting #1

Date: June 8, 2023

Cloud recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dTRhPzLQAiy8MRx_7CXwtGjwyEg-pblsu2fNCJ7qFQuOnuce6rtQTRepDWGfdIO-.R5PZpmB8TEW2zuHb

Passcode: uipk\$5=7

Meeting #2

- 3 participants from: Thrive 4 Change; Nueva Luz URC; and LGBT Center

Topic: AFC 2023 Responsive Grants Technical Assistance Meeting #2

Date: Jun 14, 2023

Cloud recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZleJh_pxJv4xYuPGD3o6l0yFZQageEVIIjZ3e6q3XT2AJ9a3T2OCgl1R-F1SiFln.aDrK8TtWvGNAOfgv

Passcode: Fv=0d#xE

Questions:

Q: How much is in the responsive grants pool of funds this year?

A: The AFC has approximately \$340,000 allocated to targeted and responsive grants this year.

Q: Our advocacy initiative has a bigger footprint than just Cuyahoga County – what do you recommend?

A: The AFC is committed to a funding footprint within Cuyahoga County and serving Cuyahoga County residents. However, we have funded advocacy projects in the past that will serve our residents along with others. You will want to make those connections clear in your letter of intent, as much as possible.

(continued on next page)

Q: If we have never been funded by the AFC before, should our organization aim for a responsive grant, or are we better suited for a catalyst grant?

A: It is true that with catalyst grants, preference will be given to organizations that the AFC has not previously funded with responsive or targeted grants. That said, the AFC is excited to receive a letter of intent (hear your ideas) especially for prevention, linkage to care, and community-centered work regardless of whether you are a new grantee. Feel free to apply in the responsive grant category. If it isn't a good fit, the committee may ask you to scale back and re-submit in the catalyst category. There are still funds available in catalyst for 2023.

Q: Will we need to include letters of support with our responsive grant proposals?

A: No, letters of support are not required unless it is a collaboration. In other words, joint proposals and those with a fiscal sponsor should be careful to include letters from leadership of all the partners involved. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is another option for joint proposals or fiscal sponsorships.

Q: Are there any specific non-allowable costs besides "endowment, fundraising events, and capital-only requests not otherwise responsive to the funding priorities"?

A: No, but there is a desire by the grants committee to avoid duplication by generally not funding medical research, treatment, or clinical services, including anti-retroviral therapy (ART), HIV test kits, and PrEP medication. If these items are part of your proposal, you are advised to itemize them separately and fully explain why other funding sources are not available.

Q: Is a fiscal sponsor required if you do not have 501c3 nonprofit status and are not a public agency?

A: Yes, individuals are not eligible for AFC responsive grants. In fact, fiscal sponsor relationships are better suited to discretionary and catalyst grants, which have fewer administrative requirements and are designed to support smaller projects and emerging organizations.

Q: Is there a general range or cap on responsive grants?

A: The range tends to be between \$20,000 to \$50,000 for each responsive grant. There is no official cap, just a rule of thumb or historical pattern.

Q: How many organizations are typically funded with responsive grants per year?

A: There are typically between 4- 6 organizations funded per year with AFC responsive grants. Several more are funded through the other kinds of grantmaking (discretionary, catalyst, and targeted) in a given year.

Q: Is it possible to submit one kind of proposal now and plan to submit another later, as the program grows?

A: Yes, in fact the catalyst grants are designed with this in mind – to support pilot projects and give an opportunity to try something innovative. An organization may then go on to apply for another AFC grant or to seek funding from other sources, such as through the local health departments.