

2023 Healthy Housing Mini-Grant: Innovative Strategies to Support Home-Based Child Care Providers

Overview

One of the biggest barriers individual property owners face in identifying and removing environmental hazards is figuring out how to pay for it. Even in communities that have programs to support the identification and removal of these hazards (e.g., HUD lead hazard control grants, local home repair programs), it can sometimes be difficult for some of property owners to be aware of and access that support. For example, although a third of all infants and toddlers attend home-based child care businesses as their primary type of care, these providers can experience unique barriers to accessing services to help them identify and correct environmental hazards in their homes. This can include but is not limited to concerns about liability, loss of income if extensive repairs require a temporary closure of their business, inability for rental properties to qualify for some programs, and difficulty navigating the application process. In other communities, there may be long wait times due to contractor shortages or a challenge of programs in identifying property owners that are eligible for the services. Yet finding and fixing environmental hazards in a home-based child care has the potential to benefit a classroom full of kids.

The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) invites communities to apply for a bundled award that will help these communities pursue and/or implement their project ideas for creating a financing solution for home-based child care providers and others to address environmental hazards in child care homes. Each of three available awards includes coaching and support over 12 to 16 months, including access to a network of national experts to assist grantees in conceptualizing and/or executing their strategy, the opportunity to learn from peer communities and share their own successes and challenges, and a \$20,000 grant. While projects may benefit a larger population, they must explicitly include and address the needs of home-based child care providers.

There is great potential to create and improve solutions to deliver financing to home-based child care providers to address environmental hazards where children learn, play, and reside. With competing needs and priorities, child care providers experience unique challenges in accessing funding specifically for healthy housing needs. Under this proposed work, NCHH and a network of partners will competitively select and support three communities in developing or implementing a financing strategy that provides funding directly to providers to address lead and/or other environmental hazards including but not limited to mold, pesticides, pests, radon, environmental tobacco smoke, asbestos, harmful chemicals found in household items (e.g., cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting products), and carbon monoxide.

This grant's purpose is to support effective, innovative, and equitable solutions to improve access to healthy housing funding to child care providers. The goal of this effort is to advance health equity, defined here as when "everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier," and racial justice, defined here as "dismantling systems that perpetuate racist policies" that have resulted in dramatic health disparities for communities of color.

Eligibility Requirements

Who is eligible?

- Local or regional nonprofit and community-based organizations (including public health institutes).
- County, local, state, and tribal government agencies.

Organizations must be based in the United States. Individual child care providers and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply even if they work at the local level. National organizations are eligible to apply but should be prepared to demonstrate direct impact at the local level.

Applicants will be asked to self-identify their proposal as being in the development or implementation phase, but this will not impact scoring or final selection.

- *Development phase:* A community should identify its proposal as being in the development phase if their financing strategy still needs assistance in identifying or prioritizing promising strategies, and/or the community is in the early stages of the proposed work (e.g., planning, design, testing).
- *Implementation phase:* A community should identify its proposal as being in the implementation phase if their financing strategy has defined priorities and objectives and/or has some infrastructure in place on which to build to achieve the proposed work.

How many communities will be selected?

We anticipate that a minimum of three communities will be selected. This competitive solicitation is being led by NCHH with additional support from the Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

What is the project period and what are some of the key dates?

March 31, 2023	Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. ET.
Early May 2023	Applicants will be notified of their status, with three grantees notified of their award.
May 2023	Grantees are assigned to core coaching team and complete intake coaching calls.
May - June 2023	Kickoff webinar for grantees.
May 2023 - August 2024	Regular coaching calls with core team and other coaching activities as needed. Grantees must meet with their coaching teams at least once every two months.
May 2023 - August 2024	One or two group technical assistance gatherings for grantees.
August 31, 2024	Final reports are due to NCHH.

What are the benefits of being selected?

The three awarded communities will receive support to pursue or implement their childcare financing strategy. These benefits include but may not be limited to the following:

- *Coaching and support:* 12-16 months of coaching and support from the National Center for Healthy Housing and other national experts who will be invited based on the needs of the selected communities from Children’s Environmental Health Network and the National Association for Family Child Care.
- *Peer learning:* Opportunities to interact and learn from other communities tackling similar issues with shared goals to improve home-based child care environments.
- *Grant award:* A \$20,000 grant award to support project activities (spending rules detailed below).

What is the coaching and support, and are there related grantee expectations to note?

Coaching and support will be provided to grantees virtually (e.g., via calls and Zoom or Teams meetings) over the duration of the project period (a 12- or 16-month period) to enable grantee access to on demand feedback, mentoring, and advice from applicable national experts. Grantees will also have the opportunity to share their success and challenges and have their concept featured among national networks. Grantee expectations and learning opportunities may include but are not limited to participation in the following activities:

- A project kickoff webinar;
- Regular coaching calls with applicable national partners;
- Submission of initial, mid- and final project reporting documentation; and Participation in other activities as needed (e.g., additional topic-specific, capacity-building webinars or coaching calls with peer mentors).

The coaching calls and support will be customized to community needs, interests, and capacity. For example, national experts will help communities assess opportunities to develop or implement their financing strategy. NCHH's coaching and support includes helping develop needed and effective cross-sector partnerships and helping community-led efforts to promote healthy housing through services to residents, policy changes, and impact evaluation. CEHN is a national multidisciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment and whose work is uniquely informed by a strong basis in pediatric and environmental health science. NAFCC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting high- quality child care by strengthening the profession of family child care for nearly one million paid home-based early learning programs.

Can a community submit more than one application?

A community may submit more than one application; however, only one application will be selected. Each application will be reviewed and evaluated independently.

What types of activities can be supported?

Funding should be used to develop or implement a financing strategy that supplies funding to home-based child care providers to address environmental hazards in their facilities. Funding should be used to build capacity within a community and help the community achieve policy, practice, or systems change.

Priority will be given to applicants who articulate plans to advance policy and systems change. Applicants may submit proposals to explore, initiate, or fully implement a financing strategy. At a minimum, proposals must articulate a plan and commitment to lay the groundwork for future implementation of a financing strategy; however, NCHH is not requiring projects to achieve full implementation within the 12- to 16-month award period. We acknowledge that full execution of your project and financing strategy may take additional time, collaboration, and resources and that proposed policies, programs, and services may not fully be in place by the end of the project period. NCHH will assess the feasibility of each community's proposal.

Communities may apply to use funding for an initiative that is already underway if they can demonstrate how the additional funding will substantially enhance the impact or reach of the work.

Funding may NOT be used to support attempts to influence legislation through direct or grassroots lobbying. For example, funds cannot be used for signage that endorses pending legislation or an elected official.

Funding may not be used solely to support the direct costs of mitigating or removing environmental hazards in home-based child care facilities. Also, funding is not intended to support standalone inspection, testing, or awareness or outreach and education activities. However, inspection, testing, outreach/education and mitigation activities that are linked to a longer-term financing strategy for home repairs, policy, practice, or systems change may be included as part of a proposal.

Lastly, funding will not be awarded to individual home-based child care providers themselves to address environmental hazards in their facilities. If you are a home-based child care provider seeking resources, please contact Anna Plankey (aplankey@nchh.org).

What outcomes will the successful applicant be expected to demonstrate?

Successful applicants will articulate a viable, equitable financing strategy to address environmental hazards in home-based child care facilities, including actual implementation or measurable progress towards implementation of that strategy, even if the end goal is not expected to be reached during the project period. Examples of outcomes might include:

- New or additional funding or financing mechanisms in place with a particular focus on under-resourced populations or communities.
- New or improved policies, services, or programs in place or in progress with a particular focus on under-resourced communities.
- Increase in equitable access to services or programs, services, or financing.

As noted above, proposals are not required to achieve full implementation within the scope of this award but should still articulate a plan and commitment to laying the groundwork for future implementation of the financing strategy. NCHH will assess the feasibility of the community's proposal.

How will communities be selected?

This is a competitive grant award. Applicants will be evaluated based on need, clarity of plan, readiness, potential impact, community partnerships, and potential for sustained change. Applications must demonstrate the following:

- Demonstrated need as evidenced by available data, including lived experience.
- Clear outcomes for the work and a thoughtful plan for achieving them.
- Potential for policy and systems change.
- A demonstrated commitment to advancing health equity and racial justice.
- A strong, effective plan for meaningfully involving multi-sector stakeholders, including community members and community-based organizations, private sector interests, policymakers, and other relevant agencies and groups.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of staff from the NCHH, CEHN, NAFCC, and funding partners using the criteria above.

What information do I need to apply?

NCHH accepts grant applications ONLY through online submission; it does NOT accept applications in PDF format. Applicants can preview all application questions [here](#).

NCHH recommends preparation of the application responses in advance of online entry, as the online application must be completed and submitted entirely in one session. We recommend saving the PDF copy of the full application ([available here](#)), so you can work offline with your team to predetermine answer selections and/or draft responses for questions as appropriate. Developing full-text responses in a Word document for the open response sections of the application will allow you to draft, edit, and save your responses as needed, as well as check character counts, before copying/pasting your final responses into the application on the SurveyMonkey platform. NCHH also recommends printing a copy of the completed application before submitting it.

When are applications due?

Applications may be submitted on a rolling basis but are due no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, March 31, 2023.

When will the grants be announced?

We anticipate that the successful applicants will be notified in early May.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Anna Plankey (aplankey@nchh.org) or visit https://nchh.org/build-the-movement/grants-and-scholarships/2023-healthy-housing-mini-grant_innovative-strategies/ for more information. Answers to other submitted questions will also be posted below. All questions must be received by March 13, 2023.

Join the funding announcement listserv to be notified of new developments (e.g., newly posted FAQs) for this grant opportunity: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/87X9LW6>.

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* 1. Share information about the primary applicant.

Agency/organization name	<input type="text"/>
City or county:	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Website (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Social media handle(s) (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>

* 2. Identify a primary contact at your organization/agency.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

* 3. Will the grant be used to support an activity or event in the community listed above where the applicant is based?

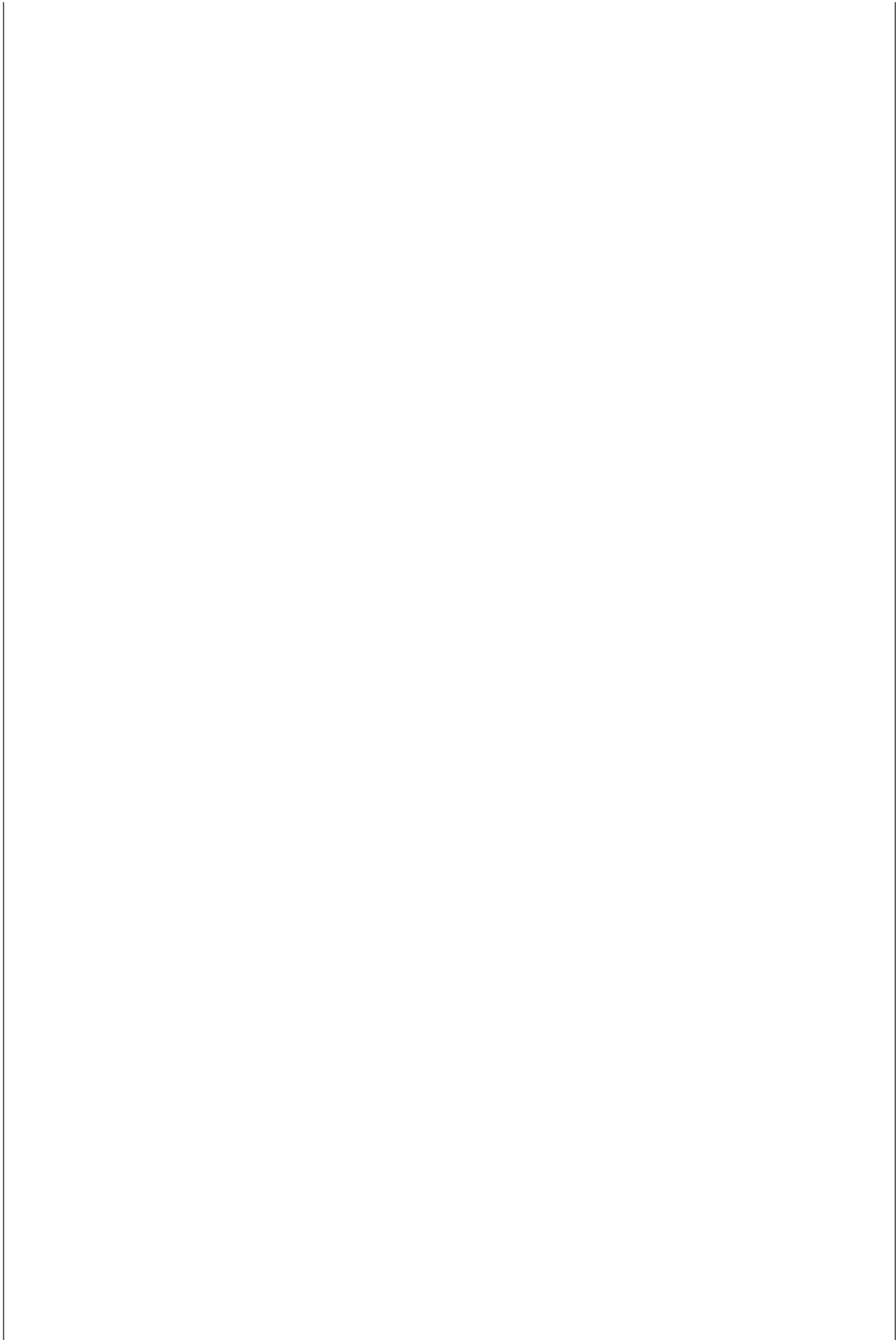
- Yes, the grant will be used to support work in the community listed above.
- No, the grant will be used to support work in a different community (specify below).

Include additional details about communities that will benefit from this grant in the space below. (Limit: 1,500 characters, including spaces.)

* 4. What type of organization is applying for this grant?

- Local, regional, or state nonprofit or community-based organization
- State, county, local, or tribal government agency
- Home-based child care provider
- Other—specify below and note eligibility requirements previously outlined

Include additional details or clarifying comments in the space below. (Limit: 1,000 characters, including spaces.)



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*** 5. What is the primary focus of your organization? Select all that apply.**

- Early care and education
- Education
- Lead poisoning prevention
- Healthy housing
- Housing health
- Healthcare
- Environmental justice
- Community or neighborhood action
- Community development
- Other - specify below

Include additional details or clarifying comments in the space below. (Limit: 500 characters, including spaces.)

*** 6. What environmental hazard[1] (s) will be the primary focus of the activities proposed under this project? Select all that apply.**

- Lead paint, soil, dust, water, or other sources
- In-home asthma triggers
- Mold or moisture
- Radon
- Pests
- Asbestos
- Pesticides
- Harmful chemicals found in household items (e.g. cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting)
- Inadequate ventilation

>

- Other—specify below. (Limit: 500 characters, including spaces.)

hazards.

We have established coalitions and partnerships that work on healthy housing.

Our existing coalitions and partnerships are active and function effectively.

We have good community resources to help residents find environmental hazards.

We have good community resources to help residents fix environmental hazards.

Program design or management is typically a barrier to home-based child care providers accessing existing funding available in our community to address environmental hazards.

We have infrastructure in place to start or improve a program that supports and finances healthier home-based child care environments.

Include additional comments in the field below. (Optional; limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 12. Why does your community need this support?** Respond in whatever way makes sense for your community. Possible responses could include a description of the barriers that prevent home-based child care providers from accessing funding to address environmental hazards, quantitative data and/or lived experiences to describe the burden of housing hazards in your community, any specific populations that are disproportionately burdened, the need for services to address and prevent negative health outcomes cause by housing hazards, existing political will to address the problem, how your community will be affected if you do not receive this funding, et cetera. (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 13. Describe what success looks like for you at the end of the project period? What is your specific plan for achieving that goal and how will you measure progress towards success? How will the technical assistance package advance your progress?** (Limit: 3,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 14. How does the work proposed in this grant relate to your longer-term plans to support and advance healthier home-based child care environments? How might it help you to create sustainable and accessible financing to support healthy housing programs?** Is it likely that there will be adequate capacity in the community to sustain this work after the grant period ends (e.g., adequate staff/partner capacity, political will, funding)? (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 15. Does your organization or agency have any prior experience conducting work like this?**

Yes (Describe below and note any specific accomplishments or lessons learned.)

No

Include additional comments in the field below. (Limit: 1,500 characters, including spaces.)

*** 16. Health equity and racial justice:** Does the proposal attempt to address the root causes of racialized health outcomes and inequitable systems? Is the proposal led by an organization representing affected residents or community members? If not, is the proposal inclusive of impacted communities in decision-making and does it communicate a clear plan of sustained and meaningful collaboration? (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 17. Community partnerships and sustainability:** Is there a strong and effective plan to meaningfully involve multisector stakeholders, including community members and community-based organizations, private sector interests, policymakers, and other relevant agencies and groups? Is there a clear and reasonable plan to engage or represent the perspectives of affected communities? (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 18. Provide a general description/estimate of how the \$20,000 grant funding will be used; suggested categories include labor, indirect costs, and other direct costs.**

Note that the award will be granted in three installments: an initial \$10,000 award upon contract execution; \$7,500 after six months of technical assistance (November 1, 2023, for 12-month projects or January 1, 2024, for 16-month projects); and \$2,500 upon receipt of final reporting requirements. (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

*** 19. What is your preferred project period timeframe?** *Note that you will have the opportunity to discuss with your coaching team once awarded.*

- 12 months
- 16 months
- Not sure

20. Are you using this funding for an initiative that is already underway? If so, how will this additional funding enhance the impact or reach of that work?

- Yes - specify below
- No

Include additional comments in the field below. (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces.)

21. If desired, upload any supplemental material you'd like to provide to the selection committee to support your community's application for this grant. (Optional.)

Note: Only PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF files are supported. The file size limit is 16 MB.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

22. In the matrix below, indicate whether we have your permission to share a brief summary of your proposed work/idea with proper attribution, even if you are not awarded. Note that to encourage and improve funding opportunities to home-based child care providers for healthy housing activities/needs, we intend to crowdsource, compile, and publish the ideas received by applicants through this RFP.

	Yes	No	Maybe
May we share with our funder, the JPB Foundation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
May we share with networks of other funders?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
May we share on NCHH's public website?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
May we share within a public report?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 23. Confirm your understanding and agreement that the community selected for funding may NOT use any portion of the funds for lobbying activities, including but not limited to those described in the following statement (required):

No aspect of awardee activities performed under this award may consist of attempts to influence legislation through direct or grassroots lobbying. For example, funds cannot be used for signage that endorses pending legislation or an elected official.

- Yes, I certify that I understand and agree to the prohibition of using these funds for lobbying activities.
- No, I cannot certify my agreement with or understanding of this statement.