

Overview

Lead poisoning is largely preventable: We know how to find lead hazards and how to fix them. One of the biggest barriers individual property owners face in identifying and removing lead hazards is figuring out how to pay for it. Even in communities that have programs to support the identification and removal of lead hazards (e.g., HUD lead hazard control grants, local home repair programs), it can sometimes be difficult for some types 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 as their primary type of care, these providers can experience unique barriers to accessing services to help them identify and correct lead 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 lead hazards in a home-based child care has the potential to benefit a classroom full of kids!

To help a community pursue and/or implement their idea on how to create a financing solution for home-based child care providers and others to address lead and other environmental hazards in child care homes, the [National Center for Healthy Housing](#) invites communities to apply for a \$30,000 grant with the option for additional coaching support. While projects may benefit a larger population, they must explicitly include and address the needs of home-based child care providers. Projects must also address lead, but may also address other environmental hazards. The additional optional coaching support includes access to a network of national experts to assist conceptualizing and/or executing their strategy.

There is great potential to create and improve solutions to deliver financing to home-based child care providers to address lead and other 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 a community in developing or implementing a financing strategy that provides funding directly to providers to address lead or lead and other environmental hazards including but not limited to mold, pests, radon, environmental tobacco smoke, asbestos, 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" which have resulted in dramatic health disparities for communities of color.

Who is eligible?

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

Organizations must be based in the United States. 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 prepare 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:* Communities should identify their 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:* Communities should identify their 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?

One community will be selected for this award. This competitive solicitation is being led by the National Center for Healthy Housing with additional support from [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?

May 18th, 2022	Applications due.	
Mid-June 2022	Applicants will be notified of their status.	
Mid-June 2022	Grantee awarded first installment.	
August 15th, 2022	Grantee provides brief status update and awarded final installment. See FAQ for more details and sample format.	
December 15th, 2022	Grantee provides a six-month brief status update. See FAQ for more details and sample format.	
June 15th, 2023	Grantee provides a one-year status update. See FAQ for more details and sample format.	

Overview

What are the benefits of being selected?

The community that is selected will receive support to pursue or implement their child care financing strategy. These benefits include but may not be limited to:

- ***Coaching and support:*** This opportunity includes the option to access coaching and support from national experts at the [National Center for Healthy Housing](#), [Children's Environmental Health Network](#), and the [National Association for Family Child Care](#).
- ***Grant award:*** A \$30,000 grant award.

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

Coaching and support is not required and may be offered to the grantee at their request. This optional support will be provided to the grantee remotely and virtually over the duration of the project period (June 2022 - June 2023) to the grantee on-demand in the form of feedback, mentoring, and advice from applicable national experts. The grantee will also have the opportunity to share their success and challenges, and have their concept featured among national networks. The grantee is expected to participate in three informal status updates throughout the project period.

The optional coaching calls and support will be customized to the community's needs, interests, and capacity. For example, national experts can help the community 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 multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards, promote a healthier environment, and is uniquely informed by a strong basis in pediatric and environmental health science. [NAFCC](#) is a nationwide non-profit 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.

Application Process

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 child care providers to address lead and other environmental hazards. Funding should be used to build capacity within a community and help communities achieve policy, practice, or systems change.

Development proposals may not achieve 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.

Priority will be given to applicants who articulate plans to advance policy and systems change. We acknowledge that full execution of your proposal and financing strategy may take additional time, collaboration, and resources and that proposed policies, programs, and services may not fully be in place.

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 should also not be used only to support the direct costs of remediation. Also, funding is not intended to support standalone awareness or outreach and education activities. However, outreach/education and remediation activities that are linked to longer term financing of home repairs, policy, practice, or systems change may be included as part of a proposal.

What outcomes will successful applicants be expected to demonstrate?

The grantee will be expected to articulate a viable, equitable child care financing strategy to address lead and/or other environmental hazards. This may include the implementation or measurable progress towards implementing 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, development proposals may not achieve 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.

Evaluation Criteria

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 National Center for Healthy Housing, Children’s Environmental Health Network, the National Association for Family Child Care, and funding partners using the criteria above.

Application Process

What information do I need to apply?

NCHH accepts grant applications ONLY through online submission; it does NOT accept the application in PDF format. Applicants can preview all of the application questions here (PDF copy of full application).

NCHH recommends preparation of the application responses in advance, as the online application must be completed and submitted entirely in one session. We recommend using the PDF copy of the full application (available here) to work offline with your team to pre-determine 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 11:59p.m. ET on Wednesday May 18th, 2022.

When will the grants be announced?

We anticipate that the successful applicant will be notified mid-June.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Anna Plankey (aplankey@nchh.org) or visit https://nchh.org/build-the-movement/grants-and-scholarships/2022-lead-and-healthy-housing-mini-grant_innovative-strategies/ or more information. Answers to other submitted questions will also be posted on that webpage. All questions must be received by May 2nd, 2022.

Join the funding announcement listserv to be notified of new developments (e.g., newly posted FAQs) for this grant opportunity.

2022 Lead and Healthy Housing Mini-Grant: Innovative Strategies to Support Home-Based Child Care Providers

*** 1. Information about the primary applicant:**

Agency/Organization Name:

Website *(if applicable):*

City or County:

State:

*** 2. Please identify a primary contact at your organization/agency:**

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

*** 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 (please specify below).
- The grant will be used to support work in multiple communities (please specify below).

Additional details about communities that will benefit from this grant (Limit: 1500 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
- Other (please specify below and note eligibility requirements previously outlined)

Additional or clarifying comments (Limit: 1,000 characters, including spaces):

*** 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 (please specify below)

Additional details or clarifying comments (Limit: 500 characters, including spaces):

*** 6. Tell us more about the population that is being disproportionately impacted by lead and other environmental hazards in your community's home-based child care environments, including population size and target ZIP code(s) (if applicable). (Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):**

* 7. **Tell us a little more about your organization.** Be sure to include a description of how supporting and financing healthy housing in child care settings is relevant or connected to your organization’s mission. **(Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces):**

* 8. **How does your organization reflect the population you serve?** You are welcome to answer this in any way that you think is best. Some examples may be by providing information about the makeup of your leadership team, board, or staff. **(Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces):**

* 9. **Please indicate whether your proposal is in the development or implementation phase.** The answer you provide will not affect your application’s score. This information will be used to help reviewers better understand and contextualize your proposal.

- Development phase:** Communities should identify their 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:** Communities should identify their 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.

* 10. **Please respond to the following statements to help us learn more about the landscape of your current work related to financing or supporting healthier child care environments in your community.** Note: The selection committee aims to provide the grant to a proposal that supports an effective, innovative, and equitable solution to improve access to healthy housing funding to child care providers. We acknowledge that communities have different levels of experience with this and that proposed policies, programs, and services may not fully operational, so please be candid in your rating. If you’d like to elaborate on your ratings (such as describing a past campaign or policy initiative that failed and the lessons you learned), you may use the comments box.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Decision-makers are knowledgeable about lead poisoning and/or other housing hazards in child care settings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child care providers are knowledgeable about lead poisoning and/or other housing hazards.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have established coalitions and partnerships that work on lead poisoning prevention.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We have established

coalitions and partnerships that work on healthy housing issues other than lead.

Our existing coalitions and partnerships are active and function effectively.

We have good community resources to help residents find sources of lead exposure.

We have good community resources to help residents fix sources of lead exposure.

We have good community resources to help residents find other (non-lead) housing hazards.

We have good community resources to help residents fix other (non-lead) housing hazards.

Program design or management is typically a barrier to child care providers accessing existing funding available in our community to address lead or other housing hazards.

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

Additional comments (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces):

*** 11. Why does your community need this support?** *Please feel free to respond in whatever way makes sense for your community. Possible responses could include a description of the barriers that prevent child care providers from accessing funding to address lead and or/housing hazards, quantitative data and/or lived experiences to describe the burden of lead poisoning or other housing hazards in your community, any specific populations that are disproportionately burdened, the need for services to address and prevent lead poisoning and other 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):

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

*** 13. Are you interested in receiving the optional informal technical assistance from subject matter experts from other organizations including NCHH, CEHN, and NAFCC?**

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (please specify below)

Additional comments (Limit 1,000 characters, including spaces):

*** 14. Please confirm your understanding and agreement that if awarded this grant you are required to participate in three grantee status updates. The grantee can demonstrate progress or success in a format/method of their choosing.**

- Yes, I certify that I understand and agree to this requirement.
- No, I cannot certify my understanding or agreement of this requirement.

*** 15. How does the work proposed in this grant relate to your longer-term plans to support and advance healthier child care environments? How might it help you to create sustainable and accessible financing to support lead and/or other 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):**

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

- Yes (Please describe below and note any specific accomplishments or lessons learned.)
- No

Additional comments (Limit: 1,500 characters, including spaces):

*** 17. 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):*

*** 18. 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):*

*** 19. Please provide a general description/estimate of how the \$30,000 grant funding will be used; suggested categories include labor, indirect costs, and other direct costs.**

Please note that the award will be granted in two installments: an initial \$20,000 award and \$10,000 upon receipt of the grantee's brief status update by August 15th, 2022.

(Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):

*** 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 (please specify below)

No

Additional comments (Limit: 2,000 characters, including spaces):

21. (Optional) If desired, please upload any supplemental material you'd like to provide to the selection committee to support your community's application for this grant. (Only PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF files are supported. File size limit is 16MB.)

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

*** 22. In the matrix below, please indicate if we have your permission to share a brief summary of your proposed work/idea with proper attribution, even if you are not awarded. Please note that to encourage and improve funding opportunities to 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?	<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. Please 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:**

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.