

# 2023 Lead Poisoning Prevention Mini-Grants Application: Increasing Rural Community Capacity for Lead Poisoning Prevention

## Overview

To help communities build capacity and advance **evidence-based efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning**, including through exposure to lead in paint, dust, soil, water, and consumer products, the [National Center for Healthy Housing](#) invites communities to apply for a bundled award of coaching and support over six months that includes on-call access to technical assistance from a network of **national experts**, opportunities to engage in **peer learning**, and a **\$50,000 grant**.

Recognizing the significant, inequitable, and costly impact of childhood lead poisoning, many communities are taking action to address the issue through the removal of lead hazards from homes, especially before children are exposed, and through policy and systems change. Others want to take their first steps but may be unsure of how and where to start. The health and economic burden of lead exposure is considerable, especially for disproportionately impacted low-income communities and communities of color and where there are persistent racial and economic disparities. Reducing childhood lead exposure means improving children's health, reducing health disparities, and reducing strain on healthcare, educational, criminal justice, and other systems.

**Eligibility for this grant opportunity is limited to organizations located in or serving communities in rural areas within states, U.S. territories, and freely associated states, as well as tribes or tribal areas.** Applicants will be asked to self-define as serving one or more of these communities.

The purpose of the proposed work is to identify, spread, and grow successful policies and systems; support new communities to take action; and encourage communities to move up the ladder of engagement, taking actions that achieve cross-sector partnerships and put sustainable, systems-level policies and programs in place. Communities that are primed for change may use this support to mobilize more effectively to improve indoor environments or expand and sustain existing efforts.

### Who is eligible?

- Local, regional, U.S. territorial, or state nonprofit and community-based organizations.
- Local, county, tribal, state, U.S. territorial, or freely associated state government agencies.

Organizations must be based in the United States. For-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.

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 they need assistance in identifying or prioritizing promising strategies, convening stakeholders to spark collaboration and dialogue, and/or they are in the early stages of the proposed work (e.g., corresponding to a low to moderate level on the ladder of engagement described below).
- **Implementation phase:** Communities should identify their proposal as being in the

implementation phase if they have defined priorities (e.g., policy or practice) and objectives and/or they have some infrastructure in place to build on to achieve the proposed work (e.g., corresponding to a moderate or higher level on the ladder of engagement described below).

**How many communities will be selected?**

We anticipate that up to five communities will be selected. This competitive solicitation is being led by the National Center for Healthy Housing, but funding is made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

For the project timeline, see Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Project Timeline**

<b>December 8, 2023</b>	Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. ET.	
<b>Early January 2024</b>	Applicants will be notified of their status, with up to five grantees being notified of their award.	
<b>January/February 2024</b>	New grantees are assigned to core coaching team and complete intake coaching calls.	
<b>February 2024</b>	Kickoff webinar for new grantees.	
<b>February 2024-July 2024</b>	Monthly coaching calls with core team and other coaching activities as needed.	
<b>July 2024</b>	Final reports due to NCHH	
<b>August 2024</b>	Virtual grantee final convening	

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### **What are the benefits of being selected?**

The selected communities will receive support to advance their local lead poisoning prevention efforts. These benefits include but may not be limited to the following:

- **Coaching and support:** Six months of technical assistance from the [National Center for Healthy Housing](#) and other national experts who will be invited based on the needs of the selected communities.
- **Peer learning:** Opportunities to interact with and learn from other communities tackling similar issues with shared goals to reduce childhood lead poisoning.
- **Grant award:** A \$50,000 grant to support activities.

### **What is the coaching and support, and are there accompanying grantee requirements?**

Coaching and support will be provided to grantees remotely over the duration of the project period (February-July 2024) to enable grantee access to on-demand and structured feedback, mentoring, and advice from national experts. Grantees will also have the opportunity to learn from peer communities, and to share their own successes and challenges. Grantee expectations and learning opportunities may include but are not limited to participation in the following activities:

- A project "kick-off" webinar;
- Monthly coaching calls with applicable national partners;
- Access to additional funding to support training or professional development opportunities, such as attendance at a relevant national conference;
- Submission of final-project reporting documentation; and
- Optional participation in other activities as needed (e.g., additional topic-specific, capacity building webinars [e.g., legal levers, financing, training/workforce, data integration, data to drive/evaluate success, health equity, or cross-sector partnerships] or coaching calls with peer mentors).

The coaching and support will be customized to community needs, interests, and capacity. For example, coaches can help communities identify or enhance the types of strategies they are interested in pursuing (e.g., improved housing codes and/or local policies, data sharing initiatives, advocacy efforts, partnership with the healthcare, energy, and other sectors, developing new or innovative financing, workforce development), and then NCHH will work with communities to assess opportunities and develop paths to action. (Note: An example of outcomes from a previous grantee cohort in one of NCHH's longer responsive, technical support initiatives can [be seen here](#).) Coaches from ASTHO will also be able to support grantees with any coordination/outreach to the state environmental health contacts in their jurisdictions.

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### Application Process

#### **Can a community submit more than one application?**

A community may submit more than one application. However, a maximum of one application per community will be selected.

#### **What types of activities can be supported?**

Funding should be used to build capacity within a community and help communities achieve policy, practice, or systems change. NCHH coaches will use a ladder of engagement framework to transform initial interest and sporadic action into sustained engagement and increased impact. The examples in Table 1 illustrate this concept. Communities that start lower on the ladder of engagement may not achieve systems change during the project period, but should still articulate a plan and commitment to laying the groundwork for systems change and/or putting new policies, services or programs in place. Coaches will assess each community's baseline level of engagement and track activities and movement up the ladder of engagement.

Priority will be given to applicants who articulate plans to advance policy and system changes. Implementation phase applicants will likely be in the moderate or higher levels of the above ladder of engagement, whereas developing phase applicants will likely be at the low to moderate levels; NCHH anticipates funding applicants in both phases.

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.**

**Also, funding is not intended to support standalone awareness or outreach and education activities or the direct costs of lead hazard control, remediation, or abatement. However, instances of these activities that are linked to policy, practice, or systems change, with a justification of how the activities further project goals, may be included as part of a proposal.**

Note that the awards will be granted in two installments: an initial \$40,000 upon contract execution and \$10,000 upon receipt of final reporting requirements (anticipated July/August 2024) after six months of technical assistance.

**What outcomes will successful applicants be expected to demonstrate?**

Given the relatively short project period (six months), communities will be expected to articulate at least one long-term goal and measure progress towards that goal (or those goals) through multiple short-term outcomes, even if the end goal is not expected to be reached during the project period. A limited number of examples of both long-term goals and accompanying short-term outcomes that might be realized during the project period are included below. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, and reviewers are not looking for applications containing only these specific goals/outcomes.

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### 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, commitment to equity and justice, and potential for sustained change. Applications must demonstrate the following:

- Demonstrated need as evidenced by available data, including lived experience and qualitative data (up to 5 points).
- Clear outcomes for the work and a thoughtful plan for achieving them (up to 5 points).
- Potential for policy and systems change (up to 5 points).
- A demonstrated commitment to advancing equity and justice (up to 5 points).
- 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 (up to 5 points).

We will seek to produce a geographically balanced cohort. Proposals will be reviewed primarily using the criteria listed above.

Applications will likely be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of staff from the National Center for Healthy Housing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and a former NCHH mini-grant and/or technical assistance recipient using the criteria articulated above.

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## 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 application questions here (PDF copy of full application).

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 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.

If you anticipate that you will NOT be able to submit your application via SurveyMonkey, please contact [sgoodwin@nchh.org](mailto:sgoodwin@nchh.org) no later than December 6, 2023, and we will provide you with a way to send us an application as a Word document.

### **When are applications due?**

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but are due no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, December 8, 2023.

### **When will the grants be announced?**

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

### **Where can I get more information?**

Contact Sarah Goodwin ([sgoodwin@nchh.org](mailto:sgoodwin@nchh.org)) or Ashely Williams ([awilliams@nchh.org](mailto:awilliams@nchh.org)) or visit [this page](#) for more information. Answers to other submitted questions will also be posted on that webpage. All questions must be received by Friday November 24, 2023.

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

## 2023 Lead Poisoning Prevention Mini-Grants Application: Increasing Rural Community Capacity for Lead Poisoning Prevention

**\* 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 or fewer, including spaces):



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

- Local, regional, U.S. territorial, or state nonprofit or community-based organization
- Local, county, tribal, state, U.S. territorial, or freely associated state government agency
- Other (please specify below and note eligibility requirements previously outlined)
- Additional or clarifying comments (Limit to 1,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):

**\* 5. This application is only open to applicants located in or serving one or more of the following communities. Will the proposed grant activities serve any of the following communities? *Select all that apply***

- Rural population, rural area
- Tribe, tribal area, tribal community
- Rural area in a U.S. territory or freely associated state
- Additional or clarifying comments (Limit to 1,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):

\* 6. **What is the primary focus of your organization?** *Select all that apply.*

- Healthy housing
- Housing
- Health
- Environmental health
- Public health
- Healthcare
- Environmental justice
- Community or neighborhood action
- Other (please specify below)

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

\* 7. **What specific lead exposure prevention need will this grant help your community address?***Select all that apply.*

- Lead paint exposure prevention
- Lead in soil exposure prevention
- Lead in water exposure prevention
- Lead in consumer products (e.g. food, jewelry) exposure prevention
- Lead in recreational activities (e.g. hunting)
- Other sources of lead exposure (elaborate below)
- Lead in homes
- Lead in schools or childcare settings

Other (Limit: 500 characters or fewer, including spaces):

\* 8. **Tell us more about the population that is being disproportionately impacted by lead exposure in your community** *(if applicable)*. **(Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):**



lead poisoning.

Our existing coalitions and partnerships are active and function effectively.

We have good community resources to help residents **find** sources of lead exposure related to paint/dust hazards

We have good community resources to help residents **find** sources of lead exposure related to drinking water

We have good community resources to help residents **find** other (non-paint, non-water) sources of lead exposure

We have good community resources to help residents **fix** sources of lead exposure related to paint/dust hazards

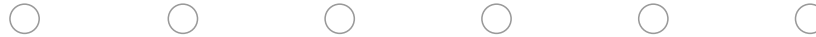
We have good community resources to help residents **fix** sources of lead exposure related to drinking water

We have good community resources to help residents **fix** other (non-paint, non-water) sources of lead exposure

Residents report barriers to eligibility for services and/or difficulty accessing funding across

programs address exposures to lead.

Our community looks to address lead poisoning comprehensively, rather than by individual exposure pathway.



Additional comments (Limit to 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces.):

**\* 13. Describe what success looks like for you at the end of the six-month project? What is your specific plan for achieving that goal? How will the technical assistance package (which includes the \$50,000 award and coaching from NCHH and/or other national partners) advance your progress? Note that given the limited project period (of roughly six months), the selection committee will be interested in measuring short-term outcomes that demonstrate progress towards longer term goals. Please describe both the short-term outcomes and long-term impacts. (Limit: 3,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):**

**\* 14. Why does your community need this support? Please feel free to respond as makes sense for your community. Possible responses could include quantitative data and/or lived experiences to describe the burden of lead exposure in your community, any specific populations that are disproportionately burdened, the need for services to address and prevent lead exposure, existing political will to address the problem, how your community will be affected if you do not receive this funding, etc. (Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces).**

**\* 15. Describe how your community will work with the TA team. Who will be the main point of contact? What existing partners will be engaged? What new partnerships will be formed? How will the affected community be included and engaged in the process? (Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces):**

\* 16. **How does the work proposed in this grant relate to your broader organizational plans to take systems-level action (or prepare to take systems-level action) to reduce childhood lead poisoning? How might it help you sustain your efforts? (Limit to 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces.)**

\* 17. **Previous Experience:** *What work has been done by your agency or organization as a foundation to create policies and systems change that achieve equitable health outcomes for all members of your community? (Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces)*

\* 18. **Community partnerships and sustainability:** *Is there a strong and effective plan to meaningfully involve multi-sector stakeholders, including community members and community-based organizations, private sector interests, policymakers, and other relevant agencies and groups? Does the applicant explain how this project is integrated into their longer-term plan? Is it likely that there will be adequate capacity in the community to sustain this work after the TA period ends (e.g., adequate staff/partner capacity, political will, funding)? (Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces).*

\* 19. **Equity and Justice:** *Does the proposal attempt to address the root causes of disproportionate burden of disease/health outcomes, or focus on disproportionate exposures to lead hazards as an explicit equity and justice strategy? 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 or fewer, including spaces).*

\* 20. **Please provide a general description/estimate of how the \$50,000 grant funding will be used; suggested categories include labor, indirect costs, and other direct costs. (Limit: 2,000 characters or fewer, including spaces.)**

*Please note that the awards will be granted in two installments: an initial \$40,000 upon contract execution and \$10,000 upon receipt of final reporting requirements (e.g., July/August 2024) after six months of TA.*

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. Please confirm your understanding and agreement that communities 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.

**23. (Optional) How did you hear about this opportunity?**