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Indiana State Department of Health

# Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity

# Rural Food Access Grant Request for Proposals

**Rural Food Access Grant**

The Indiana Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (IDOH, DNPA) is offering funding to multiple organizations in rural Indiana counties serving higher risk, underserved communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19. IDOH, DNPA has received funding from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase equitable access to healthy food among vulnerable rural populations.

**Examples of evidence-based, rural food access projects that can be funded through this grant include, but are not limited to:**

* Food system models
  + Food councils, value chain coordination
* Production, processing, and distribution models
  + Land policies, food hubs, and community gardens
* School-based models
  + School breakfast, afterschool meals, farm to school, backpack food programs, summer meals, and school food pantries
* Retail-based models
  + Food assistance, mobile markets, healthy corner stores, farmers markets, and community supported agriculture

More information on how to implement similar projects can be found here: [https://foodcommunitybenefit.noharm.org/resources/implementation-strategy/funding-healthy-food-access-interventions](https://foodcommunitybenefit.noharm.org/resources/implementation-strategy/funding-healthy-food-access-interventions%20)

**Grant Eligibility**

This funding is made possible through the CDC to address COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding equitable food access in rural populations. Selected grantees may use funds to support rural food access projects that can be sustained over time in their counties. DNPA will fund projects that demonstrate solutions for systemic barriers and potentially discriminatory practices that have put certain groups at higher risk for diseases like COVID-19.

IDOH, DNPA prioritizes health equity\* in our funding for initiatives in all settings. Therefore, organizations that reside in, or serve communities that rank high (.5 and above) on the [CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index](https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html), will be prioritized for funding.

*\*The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation defines health equity as "… everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care."*

**Qualifying Criteria:**

* Must be an Indiana county that falls into the rural or rural/mixed category of population size, as indicated below:
  + *No county will be excluded simply by the premise of population size.* However, urban communities will need to demonstrate how their approach will reach those in rural areas of their county.
  + Rural county designations: <https://data.hrsa.gov/Content/Documents/tools/rural-health/forhpeligibleareas.pdf>
* Show a level of capacity to start and maintain a rural food access model over time
* Applicants must be a legal entity in good standing, i.e., 501(c)(3) organizations, for-profit entities, health organizations, or other nonprofit entities such as a university or a local government agency.
* Funding priority will be given to organizations in communities that rank high (.5 and above) in the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), which considers socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing type and transportation.
  + To see where your organization falls in this index, please visit: [**https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html**](https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html)
    - Please define the geographical reach, i.e., county, census tract, theme, etc.

**Unallowable Costs:**

* Funds for research.
* Clinical care except as allowed by law.
* Funds may be used only for reasonable program purposes, including personnel, travel, supplies, and services.
* Generally, recipients may not use funds to purchase furniture or equipment. Any such proposed spending must be clearly identified in the budget.
* Pre-award costs generally are not allowed, unless written approval is obtained.
* No funds may be used for activities influencing the legislation or legislative body.
* Grantees may NOT re-grant the funds to other organizations.

**Grant Requirements**

* Complete the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity’s (DNPA) Rural Food Access Grant Application, which includes a letter of intent to describe the organization’s background and project readiness and commitment to food access sustainability, as well as a budget section to show breakdown of program costs.
* Establish a working relationship with the DNPA’s Food Access Coordinator throughout the life of the grant to utilize technical assistance services. The recipient must submit regular updates to the DNPA.
* Commit to monthly DNPA Rural Food Access team calls.
* Submit all legal agreements and required forms; as a grant recipient, an organization is considered a vendor to the state, therefore, a Vendor form, Direct Deposit Form and W-9 must be completed.
* Show .5 SVI rating of population being served. [**https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html**](https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html)

**Letter of Intent**

Due **October 8th, 2021, by 5 p.m.**

**Please answer this letter of intent (timeline/organization background) in two (2) pages or less.** Upon completion, please submit the proposal to Alohna Warren via email at [awarren1@isdh.in.gov](mailto:awarren1@isdh.in.gov). If you have any questions, please reach out.

**I. Proposal Cover Sheet (not included in 2-page limit):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposal Contact Person** | |
| Name: | Position: |
| Organization Name: | |
| Address: | |
| Phone Number: | Email: |
| **Fiscal Contact (the individual that signs financial documents)** | |
| Name: | Position: |
| Address: | |
| Phone Number: | Email: |

|  |
| --- |
| **Indiana County Information (See links below)** |
| County Name (where organization is located/population serving): |
| Total Population (Use census link below): |
| Rural designation by county or tract for population served (See HRSA rural link below): Y/N |
| CDC’s SVI rating applicable to your program reach, i.e., county, tract, or theme (Use SVI link below): |
| **Demographics of Total County Population** |
| **\_\_\_\_\_**% American Indian **\_\_\_\_\_**% Hispanic  **\_\_\_\_\_**% Asian **\_\_\_\_\_**% White  **\_\_\_\_\_**% Black **\_\_\_\_\_**% Multiracial |

Census Tract Data: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IN,US/PST045219>

Health Resources: <https://data.hrsa.gov/Content/Documents/tools/rural-health/forhpeligibleareas.pdf>

CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index: <https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html>

**II. Timeline (included in 2 pages):**

The Rural Food Access Grant project period begins on January 15th, 2022 and will end on May 31st, 2023. Please provide an estimated timeline for your organization’s efforts as it pertains to this grant.

**III. Organization Background (included in 2 pages):**

1. Please describe your community and the population that is served.
2. Please provide a brief overview of your proposed program.
3. How will your program expand food access for your community? Please explain how this program will impact health inequities\* in your community?

\**At IDOH we define health inequities as the differences in health status and mortality rates across population groups that are systemic, avoidable, unfair, and unjust. IDOH recognizes that health inequities exist for individuals because of characteristics such as age, sex, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomics, and national origin.*

4. Who are your organization’s key community partners and successful collaborators?

5. Is there any other information you would like to share about your organization?

# IV. Rural Access Grant Budget (not included in 2-page limit):

The Project period for the grant is 1/15/2022 – 5/31/2023. Please see unallowable costs (page 2).

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| --- | --- |
| **Fiscal Year (FY) 22/23** | |
| Item | Proposed amount ($) |
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| **Total** | |

Budget justification(optional):

If there are any items you feel that you need to explain, please use the below space to do so.

**V. Application Process**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Application Process*** |
| Thank you for completing this letter of intent to receive Rural Food Access Grant funding. Your work is important in helping improve the lives of Indiana’s at-risk populations. Your submission will be carefully reviewed by our team. The next steps for this funding opportunity are outlined below:    **Step 1**: All proposals will be reviewed by IDOH staff. After review, some applicants will be asked to move on to Step 2.  **Step 2**: Applicants in this round of review will be asked to present your program/initiative in a more detailed 15-minute presentation with a 15-minute question and answer session.   * *Presentations will be held the week of October 25 th, 2021* * *Funding awards will be announced on November 8th, 2021*   If you are selected for funding:   * *You will be asked to provide a scope of work to begin a contract with the Indiana Department of Health.* * *You will be asked to submit a Direct Deposit Form, W-9, and register as a vendor with the State of Indiana. Once the funding awards are announced, you will be asked to register with the state and submit your forms within three days of announcement.* * ***Your funding will begin on January 15th, 2022 and end May 31st, 2023***     Please send your completed letter of intent and budget to [*awarren1@isdh.in.gov*](mailto:awarren1@isdh.in.gov) by 5pm EST, October 8thth. |

**Thank you for completing this grant application!**

Please email to Alohna Warren at [awarren1@isdh.in.gov](mailto:awarren1@isdh.in.gov) by **October 8thth, 2021 by 5 p.m.**