

North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies (NCAPHA)
Strategic Initiatives Fund

Background:

In 2024, the NCAPHA Board established a \$500,000 Board-directed fund focused on strategic initiatives, with an evolving plan to continue to invest in this fund over time. The goals for this fund are to invest in strategic initiatives that will support and advance the local public health system in North Carolina, and to demonstrate NCAPHA's commitment to reinvesting in its members. Funding decisions out of this strategic reserve will be approved by the full NCAPHA Board during twice-annual review periods. Proposals will occur in February and August. NCAPHA is excited to accept the second round of proposals for its Strategic Initiatives Fund. After funding five proposals in round one, \$300,000 is available for the next funding round. The intent of this document is to inform applicants about the proposal and review process, including eligibility criteria for proposed initiatives and application guidance.

Initiatives to be funded:

The following criteria will be taken into consideration for initiatives to be supported by this fund:

- **Impact:** Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to have broad and lasting impact across NC's local public health system.
- **Scope:** The goal for this fund is to fund priorities at the system level. Ideally, proposals will be brought forward that work at the regional level or broader. Proposals focused on one health department or a group of health departments smaller than a multi-county region (such as the NCALHD regions) are less likely to be prioritized, unless there is a clear connection to how smaller projects could scale across the state.
- **Sustainability:** Proposals that will either achieve their impact through a short-term funding initiative or that can become sustained through other funds will be prioritized. This fund is not intended to make long-term financial commitments.
- **Focus:** While there are no prescribed areas of focus for these fundings, proposals should keep in mind that the fund is established to support NC's local governmental public health system. While not a hard requirement, three potential references in considering funding are North Carolina's legislatively mandated public health services, the national framework of public health essential services and foundational capabilities, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) Future of Local Public Health Report, and the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD) strategic priorities as illustrated by its workgroup structure:
 - [NC Public Health Statute](#)
 - [Foundational Capabilities and Essential Services](#)
 - [NCIOM Future of Local Public Health Report](#)
 - [NCALHD Workgroups](#)

Eligibility:

Local Health Departments, LHD regions or non-profit agencies working in partnership with local public health are considered the ideal candidates for this funding. Other agency types may be considered. This funding is not intended to directly support work done by for-profit entities. Non-local health department entities that are applying for funds should include a list of partner LHDs that they will be working with for this project.

Funding Amounts:

There is no hard limit for funding amounts at this time. Please note that there is \$300,000 remaining in the fund. Proposals that combine this funding with other funding streams to maximize impact will be considered favorably. In-kind contributions should not be included with applications.

Reporting:

Funded entities will be required to submit a progress report at the mid-point of the funding period for the project, along with a final report at the conclusion of the funded period.

Timelines:

Proposal timelines should take into consideration adequate time to design, launch, implement and then either conclude or transition the program to ongoing funding.

As this is not a formalized grantmaking process, there is no application window for proposals. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis, and considered for either the February or August review period depending on timing of receipt. The February review period has closed. For review in August, proposals must be received by July 15th.

Application Instructions:

1. Applicants should submit their proposal using this survey form:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D68Q5SQ>
2. A PDF of the survey questions can be found [here](#) for reference.
3. As part of the submission, applicants are required to upload the following documents:
 - a. A brief (1000 words or less) narrative to describe the project and its anticipated impact to NC's local public health system.
 - b. A proposed budget – a template is available [here](#). Please upload the proposed budget as a PDF or DOC.

Applicants will be notified of a decision by the end of September for August reviews.

Questions:

Any questions regarding the NCAPHA Strategic Initiatives Fund and this proposal process should be sent to Grants@ncapha.org.
