

# SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HEALTH FUND FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

COVID-19 FARMWORKER  
RESILIENCY CLUSTER GRANT  
FEBRUARY 2021



**THE CENTER**  
*at Sierra Health Foundation*

SAN JOAQUIN  
VALLEY  
**HEALTH FUND**

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund is managed by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation with funding from Sierra Health Foundation, The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, Rosenberg Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, Dignity Health, TIDES Foundation, The Hellman Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Convergence Partnership, Health Net, The Grove Foundation, Werner-Kohnstamm Family Giving Fund, IKEA, New Venture Fund, Sunlight Giving, Heising-Simons Foundation, The Libra Foundation, Ceres Trust, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, College Futures Foundation, Beacon IA—a donor-advised fund of Impact Assets, Water Funder Initiative, S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Latino Community Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, 11th Hour Project—A Program of The Schmidt Family Foundation, Chicago Community Trust on behalf of an anonymous funder, and other anonymous funders.

The Center is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit bringing people, ideas and infrastructure together to create a collective impact that reduces health disparities and improves community health for the underserved living in California.

For information about the Center, visit [www.shfcenter.org](http://www.shfcenter.org).

# San Joaquin Valley Health Fund COVID-19 Farmworker Resiliency Cluster Application Instructions and Criteria

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA CAREFULLY

## BACKGROUND

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation recognizes that our health is influenced by many factors, including socioeconomic conditions, environment, education, income, and access to transportation, green space, healthy food, quality health care, culturally and linguistically appropriate public health information, and capacity and opportunity to self-advocate—all of which are determinants of health. The Center is dedicated to health and racial equity and racial justice. Health equity means achieving the highest possible standard of health for all people, giving special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health, based on social conditions.<sup>1</sup> Racial equity “is the condition that would be achieved if one’s racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares.”<sup>2</sup> Racial equity, as one part of racial justice, includes work to address root causes of inequities, not just their manifestation, including the elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.”<sup>3</sup>

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund (SJVHF) is a unique partnership built among 30+ national and California funders and more than 160 community-based organizations working to advance health and racial equity in the San Joaquin Valley of California. One of the defining aspects of the SJVHF is that, while it is a funder collaborative, the policy priorities that guide the SJVHF’s direction are developed and endorsed annually by the SJVHF community partner organizations through the SJVHF Policy Committee. Those policy priorities are documented in the annual IHHEEL (Immigration, Health, Housing, Education, Environmental Justice, and Land Use and Planning) Policy Platform. The Center strives to



advance the movement for improved health and racial equity outcomes in the San Joaquin Valley consistent with the community partners’ endorsed policy platform.

In Phase 1 of the COVID-19 Response Cluster, the SJVHF provided funding to California Institute for Rural Studies (CIRS) to support the [COVID-19 Farmworker Study’s](#) focus in the San Joaquin Valley. The early findings and policy recommendations from the study were disseminated broadly in July 2020 through the press, public and policymaker briefings, and on CIRS and other partners’ web sites. The final recommendations from the study were released in early February 2021 and highlight needs for data-informed advocacy, outreach and organizational capacity-building to support farmworker health, safety and economic security through the advancement of the CIRS COVID-19 Farmworker study findings and recommendations.

1 Braveman, Paula. “What Are Health Disparities and Health Equity? We Need to Be Clear.” *Public Health Reports*. 2014 Supplement 2, Volume 129. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3863701/>

2 <http://www.racialequityresourceguide.org/about/glossary>

3 Ibid.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Center will award multiple two-year grants for up to \$300,000 each that advance farmworker recovery and resiliency through non-lobbying policy and systems change.

Current and new SJVHF partners with demonstrated experience working alongside farmworkers are eligible to apply. **The Center will only consider proposals for collaborative projects between two or more community organizations, one of which must be designated as Lead.**

Funded co-partners do NOT have to be funded in the same amount. Applicants should also identify unfunded (through this grant) co-partners who will be working in partnership, but who are funded through other identified means on complementary work (e.g., a partner who will be supported through other unrestricted funds to carry out legislative advocacy.)

Applicants must demonstrate experience and expertise in policy and systems change advocacy and working in partnership with impacted farmworker communities in the San Joaquin Valley to identify problems and solutions. Applicants must identify specific non-lobbying policy/ systems change activities that would directly advance one or more policy recommendation(s) that emerged from or are informed by the [COVID-19 Farmworker Study's findings](#) and specify the path for addressing these that meaningfully engages farmworkers in every stage of the advocacy (e.g., project advisory committee that includes farmworkers; incorporating farmworkers as spokespersons, witnesses).

The proposed strategy must include most/all of the following process elements:

- Coalition Building/Partnership Development
- Civic Engagement
- Non-legislative Policy Conceptualization and Development
- Community Leadership Development

- Community Engagement, Organizing, Advocacy and Mobilization
- Multi-Ethnic/Multi-Racial/Multi-Sector Collaboration
- Communications/Outreach and Education

In addition to work in furtherance of the grant goal and objectives, COVID-19 Farmworker Resiliency Partners (both Lead and co-partner organizations under the grant):

- Must participate in monthly 60- to 90-minute SJVHF Policy Committee conference calls and are highly encouraged to participate on one or more SJVHF policy subcommittees;
- Must attend up to three SJVHF partner meetings/ convenings during the grant year, including Equity on the Mall and up to two SJVHF all-partner meetings, dates to be determined.
- Must actively participate in quarterly SJVHF Farmworker Resiliency Cluster 60- to 90-minute video-conferences throughout the grant period.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Center will only fund collaborative projects between two or more identified nonprofit organizations (i.e., co-partners) with experience and demonstrated history of effectively leveraging resources, relationships and influence to further health and racial equity for farmworkers in the San Joaquin Valley, and with the capacity to advance one or more of the policy recommendations that emerged from or are informed by the [COVID-19 Farmworker Study findings](#). Direct or grassroots lobbying cannot be funded through this grant opportunity. Each proposal must identify a Lead Applicant. The Lead Applicant must be a qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Funded co-partners may be 501(c)(3) organizations or fiscally sponsored organizations. Non-funded (through this grant) co-partners should also be identified and their specific role explained in the proposal and workplan.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

To be considered, COVID-19 Farmworker Resiliency Cluster applications will meet the requirements of the funding opportunity and eligibility criteria identified above, including (but not limited to) working in partnership, aligning with the policy priorities and recommendations identified in the Farmworkers Study, focusing on policy and systems change, and using identified strategies. The most competitive applications will demonstrate that together the co-partners have:

- Deep understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on farmworker communities and the impact of natural disasters (e.g., COVID-19, economic downturn, fire, earthquake) on farmworker community life
- Demonstrated experience/understanding of the agricultural/health industries and regulatory and administrative agencies and overall policy environment, as relevant to the proposal's policy and systems change objectives
- Established trusted relationships with diverse San Joaquin Valley farmworker communities and demonstrated history of working alongside farmworkers in true partnership
- Prior experience in successful non-lobbying policy and systems change advocacy at the national, state and/or or local level
- Current staff capacity and expertise to advance the identified, proposed policy objectives
- Clearly identified goal(s), realistic objectives, appropriate and aligned activities, and designated areas of responsibility for each named (funded or unfunded) co-partner
- An appropriate grant project budget that fits the Scope of Work and division of labor
- A description of how the work leads to the short-, medium- and long-term outcomes, how impact will be demonstrated and tracked, and how the activities and

strategies will be monitored and refined to respond to changing circumstances

- Demonstrated capacity to leverage social and financial resources, experience, expertise and partnerships to deepen the impact of the grant
- A plan for sustaining and advancing this advocacy beyond the two-year grant period
- Past performance as a SJVHF partner (if applicable) and presence and experience with regard to the overall geographic and demographic diversity of the farmworker population in the San Joaquin Valley.

## FUNDING INFORMATION

- Applications may request an amount up to \$300,000. The grant term is two years, beginning April 1, 2021. Different grant terms might be considered if detailed rationale is provided. Named collaborative partners do NOT have to be funded at the same level. Funding amounts of the named partners should be determined by the division of labor and the project's scope of work.
- Up to 15% of direct costs may be requested as indirect costs to be divided as determined by the named partners and included in the accompanying project budget.
- Direct costs may include, but are not limited to, staff compensation, consultants, subgrants (i.e., identified non-lead partner organizations), meeting costs, project travel, necessary project equipment, stipends to support community participation.
- Funded organizations (lead and funded collaborative partners) are each required to submit a detailed final financial report and a final combined narrative report summarizing major activities, explaining outcomes and learnings and including any learning products within 30 days of the grant's end. Additionally, individual financial and combined narrative progress reports are due within 30 days of the end of the first year of funding. Year

2 payments are conditioned on review and approval of Year 1 narrative and financial reports. The Center will provide report templates for both the interim and final reports that partners are required to complete and return. Funded organizations should be prepared to discuss interim progress toward the grant goals, as well as challenges and reflections on the grant work with The Center/SJVHF staff and/or SJVHF or Farmworker Resilience Cluster partners during partner convenings and/or scheduled funder site visits or calls.

- Only one application should be submitted per project and each application must be signed off by the executive director of each of the collaborative partner organizations. The organization identified as the Lead should submit the proposal, but the other funded grant partners MUST be identified and each must submit a proposed subgrantee budget and ALL partners must sign off on the workplan.
- The project proposal and budget must specifically outline roles, responsibilities and financial allocation of ALL project partners. Staff responsible for carrying out this project should be identified, for the lead and sub-lead organizations, in the staffing section of the application.
- Individual organizations may serve as co-partners or consultants on multiple applications but may only serve as Lead on one application.

Proposals for direct services will not be considered under this RFP. Direct services are those that tend to meet people's more immediate needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, literacy, life skills, individual development or physical or mental health care, rather than activities designed to result in policy and systems change. For example, a proposal that aims to purchase and provide meals to individuals is considered a direct services proposal. A proposal that aims to expand access to health care or school meals access are examples of advocacy or systems change targets.

Proposals seeking support for direct or grassroots lobbying will not be considered.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please send questions and inquiries related to the SJVHF funding opportunity to [sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org](mailto:sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org) with the subject line: **SJVHF Farmworker Application**

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, March 12, 2021, at 5 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time)

### APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

Late March 2021

### APPROXIMATE DATE FUNDS AVAILABLE:

April 2021

To be considered, your proposal must be submitted via The Center's online grants portal by 5 p.m. (PST) on the deadline date, March 12, 2021. Submission guidelines follow. Proposals received after the due date/time will not be reviewed. Submission before the deadline date is advised in case you experience technical difficulties with submitting your application through the portal. We may not be able to respond to your requests for help on the deadline date.

## PROPOSERS' WEBINAR

We have scheduled one proposers' webinar to review the current San Joaquin Valley Health Fund funding opportunity and the application process, and to answer your questions. The webinar will be held on **February 18, 2021, at 2 p.m. PST**. Participation on the webinar is strongly recommended, though not required, by staff who will be drafting the proposal as well as leading the work. The webinar will be recorded and posted on The Center's web site for review. Please register for the proposer's webinar on [The Center's web site](#). Please review the application materials prior to attending the webinar.

## IMPORTANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines.

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the guidelines below or have technology difficulties.
- Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. PST on the deadline date of March 12, 2021.
- Submit the application via [our online grants portal](#). New users of the portal will need to create an account as the first step in the application process.
- For optimal functionality, please use Internet Explorer.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an \*).
- Upload all documents listed under "Application Attachments Checklist" below.
- On the portal, you may click "Save & Finish Later." You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application. [Use this link](#) each time you return to your in-progress application.
- Click "Save & Finish Later" any time you will not be working on your application for a few minutes.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents, before submitting it. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at [sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org](mailto:sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org) with the subject line: SJVHF Application Online Help. Questions will only be accepted until noon on the deadline date.
- If you are not a 501(c)(3) incorporated nonprofit organization, you must identify a 501(c)(3) entity to apply as your fiscal sponsor.

## IMPORTANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Send questions about this grant program and the application process to [sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org](mailto:sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org) with the subject line:  
**Farmworker Resiliency Application Question**

## APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST

Access the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund application form at: [https://www.grantrequest.com/SID\\_5509?SA=SNA&FID=35131](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_5509?SA=SNA&FID=35131)

- Proposed budget Excel form in the Center's template.  
This form will allow you to include your budget narrative with each line item. Find the form in the Attachments section of the online application, fill it in and upload it.
- Proposed Work Plan
- 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter
- Financial Report – must show organizational/institutional revenue and expenses for a full fiscal year (not IRS form 990).

### **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

Definition of incomplete application: The applicant did not answer all the questions, the applicant did not submit all the requested supporting documentation or did not use the correct grant templates.