

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HEALTH FUND
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:
IHHEEL POLICY PLATFORM ADVOCACY
IHHEEL POLICY PLATFORM LEARNING

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
JUNE 2023



SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY
HEALTH FUND

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization 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.

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA CAREFULLY

BACKGROUND

Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management (The Center) was founded by Sierra Health Foundation in 2012 as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With offices in Sacramento and Fresno, The Center pursues the promise of health and racial equity in communities across California. Leveraging leadership, operational and funding support from Sierra Health Foundation and its partners, The Center establishes investment partnerships with public and private funders; community members; community organizations; national, state and local government agencies; nonprofits; and businesses to advance health equity.

The Center recognizes that our health is influenced by many factors, including socioeconomic conditions, environment, education, income, access to transportation, green space, healthy food and quality health care – 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.¹ Racial equity “is the condition that would be achieved if one’s racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares.”² 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.”³

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund (SJVHF) is a unique partnership among 40+ national and California funders and more than 170 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. Those policy priorities are documented in the [IHHEEL \(Immigration, Health, Housing, Education, Environment, Land Use and Planning and Digital Divide\) Policy Platform](#). Through the IHHEEL funding opportunities, The Center strives to advance the movement for improved health and racial equity outcomes in the San Joaquin Valley consistent with the partners’ endorsed policy platform. Successful IHHEEL grant applications will emphasize advocacy, organizing and capacity-building grant goals that have demonstrated potential to advance some specified aspect of the SJVHF’s IHHEEL Policy Platform.



¹ Braveman, Paula. “What Are Health Disparities and Health Equity? We Need to Be Clear.” Public Health Reports 2014 Supplement 2, Volume 129. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/003335491412915203> ² www.racialequitytools.org/glossary ³ Ibid.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This Request for Proposals offers two opportunities under the IHHEEL funding stream: **IHHEEL Advocacy** grants and **IHHEEL Learning** grants. Applicants may submit a proposal for one grant opportunity only.

IHHEEL Advocacy Grants

One-year IHHEEL Advocacy grants are for up to \$25,000. Applicants must demonstrate experience in systems change advocacy and be working in partnerships with impacted grassroots community members. Applicants must identify policy and/or systems change goals that would advance the 2023 IHHEEL Policy Platform.

IHHEEL Learning Grants

One-year IHHEEL Learning grants are for up to \$15,000. Applicants must demonstrate interest and potential for policy and/or systems change work that is aligned with the 2023 IHHEEL Policy Platform. Applicants must identify how they need to increase their capacity in order to engage in policy and system change advocacy.

If awarded a grant, all awarded partners:

- Are strongly encouraged to participate in monthly 90-minute SJVHF Policy Committee virtual meetings.
- Are strongly encouraged to participate in an IHHEEL Policy Sub-committee.
- Are strongly encouraged to attend a minimum of three SJVHF partner meetings/convenings during the grant year (e.g., Equity on the Mall, regional townhalls, partner meetings, funder briefings, technical assistance training, etc.)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Center will fund nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are designated as a 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization. Fiscal sponsors for entities that are not qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to apply. Fiscal sponsors may apply separately on behalf of more than one organization or collaborative group.

In addition to the eligibility criteria mentioned in the IHHEEL Advocacy and Learning Grant descriptions above, the proposed grant goal, objectives, activities, and anticipated outcomes must be aligned with the IHHEEL Policy Platform and be intended to advance health and racial equity in the San Joaquin Valley.

The work must be conducted in at least one of the nine counties that make up the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund funding region. These counties include:

- San Joaquin
- Stanislaus
- Merced
- Mariposa
- Madera
- Fresno
- Tulare
- Kings
- Kern

SELECTION CRITERIA

The most competitive applications will:

- Identify a grant goal, realistic objectives and aligned activities that would advance the IHHEEL Policy Platform.
- Demonstrate how the proposed grant activities would reduce health disparities, promote health and racial equity and/or address systemic barriers to a healthier and more equitable San Joaquin Valley.
- Demonstrate approaches and authentic partnerships with the impacted community with whom the applicant works.
- Include realistic project scope, budget and anticipated outcomes.
- Leverage social and financial resources, experience, expertise and partnerships to deepen the desired outcomes of the grant.
- Identify how desired outcomes will be demonstrated and tracked.
- Demonstrate previous engagement and/or commitment to SJVHF's Policy Committee, convenings, trainings and events (i.e., Equity on the Mall, Regional Townhall, etc.)

The region's overall geographic and demographic diversity will be considered in the selection process.

FUNDING INFORMATION

- Applicants may request any amount up to \$25,000 for SJVHF IHHEEL Advocacy grants or up to \$15,000 for SJVHF IHHEEL Learning grants.
- The grant term is one year, beginning August 1, 2023, and ending on July 31, 2024. Different grant terms might be considered if a detailed rationale is provided.
- Up to 15% of direct costs may be requested for indirect costs.
- Direct costs may include, but are not limited to, staff compensation, consultants, operating costs, meeting costs, travel and necessary equipment.
- Funded organizations are required to submit a detailed financial report and a final narrative report summarizing major activities, explaining outcomes and learnings, and including any learning

products within 30 days of the grant's end. Funded organizations should be prepared to discuss interim progress toward the grant goal, as well as challenges and reflections on the grant work with Center staff and/or SJVHF partners during partner convenings and/or funder site visits or calls.

Examples of projects that might be funded:

IHHEEL Projects:

- Educating policymakers on the need for policy solutions at the federal, state, county, municipal and school board levels to promote greater infrastructure, digital literacy, and affordable and reliable broadband service options for residents.
- Supporting investments in partnerships and programs that provide students with access to high-quality opportunities that enhance their academic programs through after-school programs, arts, music, sports, access to healthy food and safe drinking water.
- Advocating for timely, culturally appropriate notification systems that alert the public to unsafe levels of air pollution.
- Increasing and expanding the use of county agencies' funds from the Mental Health Services Act and state Innovation Funds to promote locally and culturally informed efforts to address mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse.
- Supporting policies and investments that produce new affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing, and protect residents for improved housing affordability, housing quality and home ownership opportunities.
- Advocating for humane immigration reform that ensures accessible and inclusive pathways to legal protections and citizenship for immigrants and policies that keep families together.
- Requiring jurisdictions to support, enforce, fund, and implement public engagement processes that prioritize underserved communities for proposed residential and industrial development.

Learning Projects:

- Increasing employment and economic development opportunities through new partnerships and development/advancement of action plans with workforce development agencies.
- Planning/implementing the Community Reinvestment Act financing strategies that increase the level of investment in rural communities.
- Advocating with families for specific school district policy changes to better serve English language learners.
- Strengthening "Sustainable Communities Strategy" in a regional transportation plan that demonstrates how the region will promote active transportation and public transit options and involve traditionally underrepresented communities in the planning and implementation phases.

Examples of strategies that could be deployed to advance the proposed system change and advocacy work:

- Coalition Building/Partnership Development

- Civic Engagement
- Non-legislative Policy Conceptualization and Development
- Community Leadership Development
- Community Engagement, Organizing, Advocacy and Mobilization
- Research/Participatory Action Research
- Multi-Ethnic/Multi-Racial/Multi-Sector Collaboration
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Communications/Outreach and Education
- Youth Engagement, Organizing and Advocacy
- Peer Learning

What we will not fund:

- Direct services*
- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Individuals
- Religious organizations for explicitly religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- 509(a)(3) supporting organizations.
- 501(c)(4) organizations or lobbying activities

*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 expands access to the federal Supplemental and Nutritious Assistance Program or SNAP is an advocacy or systems change proposal.

If you have question about what will be or will not be funded, send questions and inquiries to sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org with the subject line: SJVHF IHHEEL R8 Application Question.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

June 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time)

APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

July 25, 2023

APPROXIMATE DATE GRANTS ISSUED:

August 1, 2023

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 opportunities and the application process and to answer questions. The webinar will be held on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023 (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)**. Participation in the webinar is strongly recommended, though not required. Please review the application materials before attending the webinar. To register, click on the following hyperlink: [SJVHF IHHEEL Round 8 Proposers' 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 RFA components.
- Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023**.
- You may access and submit the online application via the following link: [SJVHF IHHEEL R8 Online Application](#)
- Click "Save & Finish Later" to save your progress any time you will not be working on your application for a few minutes. 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.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an *).
- Upload all documents listed under "Application Attachments Checklist" below.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- Send all questions and inquiries related to this funding opportunity to sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org with the subject line: SJVHF IHHEEL R8 Application Question

APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST

- Proposed Budget** (Download The Center's proposed budget template using the following link: [Proposed Budget Template](#). Complete and upload your application before submitting. The form is also available in the online application portal.)
- Applicant organization's W-9 Form** (Blank form can be downloaded via the following link: [W-9 Form](#). Complete and upload with your application before submitting.)
- 501(c)(3) IRS Determination Letter**
- Financial Report** (Must show organizational/institutional revenue and expenses for a full fiscal year.)

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 template.