



GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund, Phase 2

Awards now up to \$30,000

PURPOSE: Grantmakers In Health (GIH), with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is making available grant writing support to help states implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The **GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund** will provide up to \$30,000 to foundations that are interested in offering grant writing support to state and county government agencies. This request for proposals (RFP) includes a revised matching rate of 2:1 (the fund will match two dollars for every dollar requested). Previous awardees are eligible to reapply. Please review the complete proposal request before submitting an application.

KEY DATES:

- Applications due: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until February 29, 2012, or until the fund is depleted, whichever occurs first.
- Final report due: six months after the grant is awarded, but no later than September 30, 2012.

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA: Eligible organizations include all state and local foundations able to meet the matching requirement. GIH considers foundations to be organizations whose primary function and activity is charitable grantmaking to multiple individuals or organizations. States that have already received a GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund award are eligible to reapply. Foundations must meet GIH's Funding Partner criteria, which are included in the full proposal request.

AWARD AMOUNT: Up to \$30,000 for a period of up to 6 months.

HOW TO APPLY: Foundations must submit a concise three- to four-page letter as an e-mail attachment or via regular post.

CONTACT: Anna Spencer, Senior Program Associate
Grantmakers In Health
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Washington, DC 20036
202.452.8331
aspencer@gih.org

BACKGROUND

States are playing a major role in the implementation of the ACA. The law requires state action and innovation on multiple fronts, including insurance reform, restructuring Medicaid, prevention, workforce development, and new service delivery models. The success of the ACA will depend on how effectively the states carry out these new responsibilities and take advantage of the evolving health care landscape created by reform. The challenges are magnified in the face of strapped state budgets and impending state and federal cuts to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Contained in the ACA are numerous grant programs designed to assist states in implementing various aspects of the ACA, such as developing insurance premium review boards, creating consumer assistance programs, and planning and establishing state health insurance exchanges (for more information on federal grants, visit www.healthcare.gov/center/grants/index.html). The ability of many states to tap into these grants, however, is weakened by their limited capacity to prepare timely and competitive grant proposals. While some foundations have already provided grant writing support to government agencies, we expect that many more would do so if given the right opportunity and incentives.

To catalyze action by state and local funders, GIH, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has developed the **GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund**. In this third round of the RFP, the Fund will provide up to \$30,000 to foundations that offer grant writing support to state and county government agencies. Grants must be directly related to the Affordable Care Act. Foundations that have already received an award from the fund are eligible to reapply. The fund is open to all state and local foundations, and the matching requirement is 2:1 (the fund will award two dollars for every dollar of support requested).

GIH considers a foundation to be an organization whose primary function and activity is charitable grantmaking to multiple individuals or organizations. Applying foundations must meet GIH's Funding Partner criteria. See Appendix A for a complete list of eligible foundation types.

The award is intended to support all state and local foundations. In states where there are few active health funders, GIH will consider awarding a grant to a national foundation that provides the matching funds. GIH may also consider awarding a grant to a nonfunder, such as a university, policy institute, or other appropriate nonprofit organization that could act as the lead grantee. Recognizing that these nonfunder organizations are less likely to be in a position to provide the match, GIH may waive the matching requirement.

We encourage all who are interested to apply.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until February 29, 2012, or until the fund is depleted, whichever occurs first. The application should be a three- to four-page letter describing the foundation's interest in offering grant writing support to state or county government agencies to tap into available federal funds directly related to the ACA. In addition, all criteria listed below must be addressed. The application must be submitted on foundation letterhead and be signed by the president/executive director of the foundation.

Proposals must include:

- dollar amount requested, not to exceed \$30,000;
- funder commitment to the 2:1 match rate (for example, if a foundation requests \$30,000, it must commit \$15,000 in matching funds to the project. Matching funds must be available on the first day of the GIH award);
- evidence of the state's interest in tapping into this grant writing assistance (funders must submit with their application a letter from a state official, or entity responsible for implementing the ACA, that indicates an interest in receiving support to increase grant writing capacity);
- demonstration of unmet need in the state for such support;
- brief documentation of the foundation's prior support to the state;
- funder plan for identifying and contracting with grant writers acceptable to both the state and foundation;
- identification of the foundation employee(s) responsible for managing the grant;
- funder commitment to use all fund dollars for grant writing support (and to spend the funds within six months);
- funder commitment to meet reporting requirements; and
- foundation IRS determination letter.

***For foundations that have already received a GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund award, the letter of support from a state or county government entity and the IRS determination letter are not required.**

Please submit proposals to Anna Spencer at aspencer@gih.org or via regular post at:

Grantmakers In Health
1100 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

Grant awards will be made on a rolling basis.

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND AWARD DECISION

GIH staff will review the proposals immediately upon receipt. The review process will ensure that each proposal meets the criteria listed above.

GIH staff will issue grant awards until the fund's assets are depleted.

MONITORING AND GRANT REPORTING

A narrative and financial report are due six months following the receipt of an award, but no later than September 30, 2012. Funders must:

- document that they have spent the fund dollars as intended,
- document that that they have fully met the matching requirement,
- provide a list of grant writers who received payments under the grant and the amounts of those payments,
- document that the grant writing services were used to assist states in competing for federal grant funds, and
- include copies of the grant proposals developed with fund grants.

APPENDIX A: GIH FUNDING PARTNER CRITERIA

GIH limits Funding Partner status to organizations whose primary function and activity is charitable grantmaking to multiple individuals or organizations. The following types of organizations are eligible to become Funding Partners:

Private Foundation: A nongovernmental, nonprofit organization with funds (usually from a single source, such as an individual, family, or corporation) and programs managed by its own trustees or directors, established to maintain or aid social, educational, religious, or other charitable activities, primarily through grantmaking (validation: Form 990-PF).

Operating Foundation: A private foundation that uses the bulk of its income to provide charitable services or to run charitable programs of its own (validation: Form 990-PF).

Community Foundation: A tax-exempt, nonprofit, independent, publicly supported, philanthropic institution organized and operated primarily as a permanent collection of endowed funds for the long-term benefit of a defined geographic area (validation: Form 990 or Form 1023, and IRS determination letter).

Corporate Giving Program: A grantmaking program established and administered within a profit-making company. Gifts and grants go directly to charitable organizations from the corporation (validation: annual report and general giving guidelines of parent company).

Company/Corporate Foundation: A private foundation that derives its grantmaking funds primarily from the contributions of a profit-making business. A corporate foundation is a separate, legal organization from the donor company and is subject to the same rules and regulations as other private foundations. Gifts and grants are usually made on a broad basis although not without regard for business interests of the corporation (validation: Form 990–PF or Form 1023, and IRS determination letter).

Public Foundation: A tax-exempt, nonprofit, independent organization that receives its assets from multiple sources, which may include private foundations, individuals, government agencies, and fees for services. Although public foundations may provide direct charitable services to the public as other nonprofits do, their primary focus is on grantmaking. To qualify, at least 50 percent of the operating budget of a public foundation must be for grants. These grants may not include awards to affiliate chapters or organizations (validation: Form 990 or Form 1023 and IRS determination letter).

Bank, Trust Company, Donor Service. For-profit companies that manage philanthropic funds. In addition to providing legal and fiduciary support, these professional organizations counsel clients on the formation of charitable entities and can serve as trustees in managing the implementation of grantmaking programs. The fund itself is only eligible to become a Funding Partner, not the for-profit management firm. (validation: verification in writing of the professional firm's activities in managing the charitable trust or foundation, and the size of the fund's assets).