

Frequently Asked Questions: EHE Rapid Start Mini Grants

Q: Can organizations use grant funds to develop radio ads or billboards?

A: Yes, organizations can utilize funds for radio ads or billboards.

Q: Do organizations have to address all three focus areas?

A: No, there are no limitations to how many focus areas you can pick. You can do one, two or all as some activities may overlap in focus areas.

Q: Can you partner with other organizations who will also be applying to this grant?

A: Yes, collaboration is encouraged. However, partnering organizations must clearly outline how they will collect and report data to avoid overlapping.

Q: Can organizations use grant funds to purchase rapid HIV test kits?

A: Yes, organizations can utilize funds for the purchase rapid HIV test kits.

Q: Is there a page limit to the RFP application?

A: There is no strict page limit; however, we recommend keeping the application to a maximum of four pages. Commitments and required appendices/attachments are not included in the page count.

Q: What does U=U mean?

A: U=U stands for Undetectable = Untransmittable. When a person with HIV takes their medicine as prescribed every day, the virus becomes so low in their body that it can't be found by a blood test. This low level is called "undetectable". When the virus is undetectable, HIV can't be passed to others during sex. This is called "untransmittable".

Q: Will you be sharing the PowerPoint?

A: Yes, we will be posting it to the RFP website here:

<https://www.boston.gov/node/16481826>

Q: When completing the budget portion, should we budget for the entire project or only for the requested funding amount?

A: You should complete the budget based only on the funding amount requested from BPHC.

Q: Will BPHC provide educational sessions and training to the grantee's community health workers outside the initial orientation?

A. BPHC will provide access to pre-recorded trainings. However, grantee organizations are encouraged to budget for additional trainings and capacity-building opportunities as needed to support their staff.

Q: If we conduct testing within our own organization, is that sufficient, or does it need to be in an external community setting?

A. Your space is sufficient, provided that confidentiality/HIPPA is fully maintained.

Q: What is meant by a “small community-based organization”?

A. This refers to a grassroots organization. However, any organization may apply.

Q: The grant emphasizes community-based and faith-based organizations. How can academic organizations participate?

A. Academic organizations can participate, especially by partnering with community or faith-based organizations. We are looking for innovative ways to reach the community - your application should reflect how your work will directly impact the population you serve. It’s all about prioritizing the communities you are working with and ensuring the project benefits them meaningfully.

Q. When should an organization secure a letter of commitment with another agency for linkage to care?

A. Letters of commitment should be secured as soon as possible. If your agency already partners with a healthcare system that can provide testing, please indicate this in your application.

Q. Are organizations allowed to utilize this funding to provide incentives and education materials? What is considered “reasonable”?

A. Yes, organizations may use funding for participant incentives. “Reasonable” refers to amounts that are appropriate for the activity and proportionate to the project budget, ensuring the focus remains on program impact rather than excessive compensation for instance (linkage to care).