

**Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness, Center for Health Equity
Building Community Capacity to Address Local Health Inequities**

**Mini-Grant Workshop
Q & A Session
Monday, August 3, 2009**

Q: One of the issues around health equity has to do with disabilities and poor healthcare that people with disabilities have. Would that be considered a population or a population only if they lived in the five areas?

A: When talking about health equity, it's more than healthcare. It could be working with people with disabilities or as broad as something like crime, unemployment, a housing issue, and more. So, disabilities certainly would fit into that. However, all work needs to occur in the five designated geographic areas.

Q: When you talk about the specific neighborhoods, do you have to serve all of those neighborhoods or can you focus on a specific neighborhood?

A: A specific neighborhood.

Q: My understanding, from looking at the RFA, is that it is a pretty structured and prescribed effort. Is that correct?

A: Yes, that's why it's a Request for Application opposed to a Request for Proposal. We have prescribed a way for you to go about engaging neighborhoods in dialogues and how to develop action plans from those dialogues.

Q: Is it possible to walk through the budget section of the RFA?

A: The maximum amount of money that can be requested is \$10,000 and that cannot represent more than 50% of their budget period.

Q: Is the Center for Health Equity interested in funding new agencies or agencies previously worked with in the past? Does it matter?

A: As long as the organization meets the guidelines, previous funding from the Center for Health Equity does not have an impact on scoring.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about the DVD? The video that we're going to have to use with this and what is the expectation that we will have to incorporate within our proposal?

A: The DVD is called Unnatural Causes and it's a tool. And the tool is designed to help neighborhoods think about health inequities in a different mindset. Instead of focusing more issues like individual personal responsibilities, it gets you in the mindset of understanding that there are greater forces, systemic causes that impact health far more than individual choices. So, the film, the video is designed to generate conversation and dialogue. And what happens with this dialogue is, hopefully, to get neighborhoods and communities to start thinking about things that impact health and how they can create a healthier community. What are some of the causes? It could be a lot of different things. It could be crime. Of course we all know that crime effects health. Poverty, unemployment, it could be many different things. And whatever the neighborhood decides on; what issues they want to focus on they would then develop an action plan from these conversations. And as a result of these conversations, developing and action plan, you know you may need research. We'll provide technical assistance, to provide data to support what the dialogue generated.

Q: Do you help, I guess what I'm afraid of, is that if we receive this grant, I'm not qualified to be able to facilitate that discussion.

A: That's one of the things we're going to do. We'll send you through a free two-day training where you will learn how to have this conversation in neighborhoods.

Q: Once you receive that training, would you be able to go back and teach some of your other members to be trainers as well?

A: I hope so with support from the Center for Health Equity. That's the sustainability part, is that once you become trained, you train others and we'll be a resource for that training as well. We'll provide training and support for that as well

Q: Can we offer it to other people in the public?

A: Yes, this is just a tool that we prescribe that you use in order to generate these conversations with neighborhoods you're going to work in. But what you do with it after that; hopefully, it will continue you to have this kind of dialogue. We have a curriculum that we use. You will be trained in how to use it.

Q: The maximum number of awards is five, so is the center selecting five groups from five different neighborhoods?

A: The grants will cover all five areas. They may not represent five different groups to cover the five different areas. We will be unsure of the make-up of the funding applications until they are funded and scored.

Q: It says the maximum amount will be \$10,000, so does that mean each group will get the \$10,000?

A: Up to \$10,000. So, you may get less.

Q: What's the period, a year?

A: October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010?

Q I represent, I suppose, a very narrow focus. I'm here on behalf of the Parkinson's Support Center of Kentuckiana. Parkinson's is under diagnosed. Is this a grant we should even be talking about a fund for?

A: The short answer is yes. Is Parkinson's an issue? It's an issue, but, let me say this, not to steal your thunder; if you have a shovel-ready project, ready to roll, and you're looking at this as an opportunity to fund your shovel-ready project; this may not be the grant to go for. Now, if you want, if you think that the issue is Parkinson's, but yet you want to give community support to see if that's an issue that the community the neighborhood is willing to address, then yes. But again if you are saying okay, we've got this great idea and this is the direction we want to go. This may not be the funding for you. But, if you're willing to roll up your sleeves, get into neighborhoods and have dialogue on what are the issues and what the community wants to do about addressing those issues, then you'll be at the table as well. So, you'll be a part of those conversations. Then this is the opportunity for you.

Q: I represent the University of Louisville and work in the School of Medicine. Ideally we are planning a very broad community project here. But, we understand that there may be a group within the community whose budget does not allow for them to receive a grant. Is there a way of determining if we could partner with an organization within the community?

A: Absolutely.

Q: We can provide the mechanism for dealing with the funding and that sort of thing?

A: We're asking other larger entities who may qualify to serve as a mentor agency.

Q: Would she need to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding? This is explained in the application.

A: That's absolutely correct.

Q: If you've got two groups in the same neighborhood that do similar actions, which one are you choosing over the other? What are the criteria? What's the tie-breaker information that you're going to need from them or what's going to be the dividing line between who gets the grant and who doesn't.

A: There is a scoring matrix on there that's outlined so we will make a decision based on scoring. An example of things that may cause an organization to receive a higher score is an organization that is more equipped and ready to work with neighborhoods. Their application will demonstrate experience and success in doing so. A scoring panel will work together to make this decision.

Q: For those who do get the grant, what's the reporting process look like?

A: It is stipulated in your application.

Q: If an organization such as Housing Coalition gets funding because they see problems in housing in that neighborhood then they sit down and realize that the community is going in another direction, do you need to make sure your mission is flexible to go in a different way?

A: Yes, if you've got an agenda already in mind. Let's say the neighborhood wants to talk about crime, does housing and crime sort of correlate? Then I think you've got your connection. You may want to look at housing in a much broader sense instead of the direction you were going in and still not necessarily getting off track with your mission.

Q: I'm working with a project in the Shawnee neighborhood and we have done the survey, the community engagement finding out what the assets are, what they say is important, and in doing that we now are beginning a health clinic, a Christian health clinic, but then, the neighborhood side of that is doing some grassroots. Maybe offering jobs for teenagers, because that's an issue that came out of the community forum that was already held.

A: I think the things that you're talking about would actually strengthen an application. This is the kind of program planning that we've done before and now we can say we've got some experience in this but we're going to do it again to help the community think about some of these other issues that are outside of the health clinic, something that maybe they can suggest that will help the rest of the community.

Q: An agency decides just to be a fiscal agent for a small organization; are we still required to apply for the funds or do we just need to sign an MOU?

A: Sign the MOU.



The Center for
Health Equity

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