**Funding Priorities**

*Q: How were the funding priorities in the RFP identified?*

A: bi3 looked at recent research and data to understand the greatest health needs and disparities in our community and listened to its partners and the community. The resources that informed the development of the RFP can be found at: <https://bi3.org/building-health-equity-rfp-resources/>

*Q: How will the issues listed under the CHNA focus area (cardiovascular, mental health, workforce) be prioritized?*

A: bi3 is interested in projects that address each of the three issues, there is no priority.

*Q: Are existing programs eligible for funding or only new ideas and approaches?*

A: bi3 is interested in supporting innovative approaches to transform the health of our region. These could be new approaches that have never been implemented locally or existing projects that have the potential to scale and create systems change.

*Q: Should proposed projects only focus on children?*

A: The priority area of *Maternal and Infant Health* includes women. The priority, *Responding to the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)*, focuses on specific health conditions for adults and/or children.

*Q: Will bi3 consider proposals that focus on the social determinants of health?*

A: bi3 will prioritize requests that can demonstrate reductions in health disparities and improvements in health outcomes.

**Grant Requests/Budget**

*Q: How many organizations will bi3 fund or what is the total amount of grant funding available?*

A: bi3 does not have a targeted number of grants or grant total in mind. bi3 has a healthy annual grant budget and, depending on the number and size of requests, we hope to fund as many as possible.

*Q: Is this a reimbursement grant?*

A: No, the payment schedule for the grant will be determined in partnership with the grantee and is not contingent upon the reimbursement of expenses.

*Q: What is the lifespan of the grant*?

A: Planning grants are typically one year; Implementation grants are typically three years. These are rough estimates based on our past grantmaking. We rely on applicants to define the timeline to implement the proposed project.

*Q: Can we request a two-year grant for the maximum grant amount?*

A: Yes. In our experience, however, it typically takes three years to plan, implement and solidify sustainable funding.

*Q: Will implementation requests for under $1.5 million be considered?*

A: Yes, the ranges provided in the RFP are a general guideline. Applicants are encouraged to request the resources and timeline appropriate to the proposed project.

*Q: What kind of expenses can be covered under a planning grant?*

A: Planning grants provide resources to engage in activities such as data mining, research, partnership development, etc. Past bi3 planning grants have included resources for a project manager, learning opportunities, community engagement activities and access to data sets. Planning grants may also include funding for a small pilot to test the approaches/strategies being investigated.

*Q: Are there limits on how much of the budget can be allocated toward staffing costs?*

A: No, there are no limits however we encourage applicants to consider how they will sustain these staff positions after the bi3 grant ends. People are important to driving projects but to achieve sustainable systems change, resources need to be dedicated to changing policies and operations – in other words “how business is done.”

*Q: Is there a limit on the percent of the budget that can be allocated for indirect costs?*

A: No, reasonable indirect and administrative costs can be included as part of the budget.

*Q: Will the timeline for awarded grants start on July 1?*

A: Grant awards will be announced by June 10. There is no required timeline for the grants but they should begin shortly after the grant is approved. bi3 will work with each awardee to determine the appropriate timeline for the project.

*Q: If we are invited to submit a full proposal, will we have the opportunity to modify the grant amount requested?*

A: Yes, bi3 understands that the budget for the project may change as you develop a detailed budget in the proposal stage of the process. The budget, however, should not be significantly different from the original LOI.

**Grant Eligibility**

*Q: Given that bi3 will not fund projects that exceed 40% of an organization’s total operating budget, how can smaller, grassroots organizations apply?*

A: Smaller, grassroots organizations are an important part of the community landscape and often have close connections with community members. We encourage partnerships of multiple organizations where one partner can act as the lead or fiscal agent. If you have questions about a potential partnership, or how a smaller organization might connect to this work, please contact bi3.

*Q: Will bi3 consider proposals that include health systems?*

A: As a strategic partner of TriHealth, bi3 cannot provide direct grants to other healthcare systems. However, bi3 will consider collaborative projects that engage multiple healthcare systems including TriHealth.

*Q: Are community health clinics considered a “health system?” Are they eligible for funding?*

A: bi3 considers health systems to be the major hospital systems. Community clinics with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply.

*Q: Would a collaborative application of partners from multiple counties in Ohio be eligible if one of the partners is a Cincinnati based organization?*

A: bi3 awards funding to 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving the Greater Cincinnati area, including Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, Highland and Warren Counties in Ohio; Campbell, Boone and Kenton Counties in Kentucky; and Dearborn County in Indiana. A collaborative including multiple partners serving those counties would be considered.

**Letter of Intent**

*Q: Are the evaluation criteria for the LOI weighted?*

A: The three key things bi3 will look for are: alignment with bi3’s priority areas and populations; a focus on improving health outcomes and building health equity; and the potential to create systems and culture change. Other criteria will also be included but these three are key considerations.

*Q: Should the letter of intent include data on the issue or population of focus?*

A: The letter of intent should communicate the opportunity or issue the project seeks to address. General information about the issue or population would be helpful however we don’t expect a deep dive into the data at this time. We do expect that full proposals will include additional data. Evaluation and collection of data are expected to be a key focus throughout the life of the grant.

*Q: Will there be any supports or technical assistance to help make the grant application process equitable?*

A: Yes, bi3 will provide feedback and ongoing support to organizations invited to submit a full proposal.

*Q: Can my organization submit multiple LOIs?*

A: There is no limit on the number of LOIs an organization can submit, however, it is unlikely bi3 will support multiple grants to one organization under the same RFP.

**Other**

*Q: Can you share examples of projects bi3 has funded in the past?*

A: Yes, please visit the “[Our Grants](https://bi3.org/our-grants/)” page on our website to learn more about our past work and partners.

**If you have additional questions or would like to discuss your specific idea, please feel free to contact us.**