

**Request for Expressions of Interest**

**to Develop or Enhance New Jersey Community Health Coalitions**

**Purpose**

[The Nicholson Foundation](https://thenicholsonfoundation.org/) is seeking to expand our efforts to improve health outcomes and costs for Medicaid recipients in as many as three New Jersey communities. The Foundation will provide up to $600,000 over 18 months for each selected Community Health Coalition (Coalition).

The goal of this initiative is to support new Coalitions, or those in an early stage of development, that will focus on improving the health of their community by:

* Coordinating multi-sector collaborations among healthcare, public health, and health-related social service providers in a defined geographic area (the community);
* Formalizing the Coalition’s organizational structure;
* Collecting, analyzing and sharing data to determine and prioritize the health needs of the community’s Medicaid recipients; and
* Planning and implementing an intervention informed by this data to improve a selected health issue that is negatively affecting the community’s Medicaid or uninsured population (e.g., diabetes, congestive heart failure, perinatal health, adolescent health, oral health, behavioral health, avoidable hospitalizations, or high costs of the Medicare/Medicaid or Charity Care population).

**The Nicholson Foundation and Community Health Coalitions**

The Nicholson Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable populations in New Jersey. Since 2009, The Nicholson Foundation has provided grants and technical assistance and has collaborated with numerous stakeholders to support the development and implementation of innovative, effective, and sustainable healthcare programs.  These programs are aimed at improving the physical and behavioral health of New Jersey’s vulnerable residents and reducing the cost of providing healthcare.

The Nicholson Foundation has promoted geographic-based health reform by funding the formation of several Community Health Coalitions. These Coalitions have brought together a variety of delivery systems and their constituent organizations (e.g., health, behavioral health, public health, social services) to address the physical, behavioral, social and environmental factors that affect the health of their community’s residents.

These Coalitions have been able to establish formal organizational infrastructures, collaborate across different health and human service delivery systems, better understand and coordinate health and related community resources, develop the capacity for data collection, analysis and sharing, and implement specific interventions that have improved health outcomes.

With this Request for Expressions of Interest (REI), The Nicholson Foundation seeks to increase the number of Community Health Coalitions in New Jersey that serve large numbers of Medicaid or uninsured recipients.

**REI Eligible Applicants**

The Community Health Coalition or the lead applicant, which is a member of the Coalition, must be a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Coalitions must be composed of the following local organizations within the designated geographic area — hospital(s), government health agency(s), Federally Qualified Health Center(s) and other primary care practices, behavioral health providers, and community-based organizations that provide health-related social services to Medicaid and other vulnerable populations. These organizations should represent a substantial portion of the community’s healthcare and health-related social service providers. Preference for funding will be given to Coalitions that include local Departments of Social Services and public health agencies.

Community Health Coalitions or Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations currently or previously supported by The Nicholson Foundation are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

**Phase I: Application for an Expression of Interest**

Interested Coalitions are invited to submit an Expression of Interest using the Application format below. The Nicholson Foundation will review these applications and invite up to three Coalitions to submit a detailed proposal for grant funding.

***Expression of Interest Application Format*** (no longer than four pages):

Community Health Coalition Description

1. Name of the Community Health Coalition
   1. Legal Status
   2. Mission
2. Name and contact information for the Lead Applicant Organization
   1. Legal status
3. Name and contact information for the individual responsible for submitting the application
4. Describe:
   1. The community’s health, social service, and public health providers that represent a substantial portion of the healthcare delivery system and that have indicated a willingness to participate in the Community Health Coalition. Explain why this level of participation is adequate to improve the health outcomes for the community’s Medicaid population.
   2. The Coalition’s current staff and their responsibilities.
   3. The proposed geographic area to be served, including relevant demographic data and a breakdown of its residents by health insurance status (Medicaid, Medicare, commercially insured, uninsured).
   4. Prevalent medical and behavioral health conditions[[1]](#footnote-1) for the Medicaid population and the source(s) of the information.
   5. Formal agreements or contracts in place with Coalition members and other community partners (e.g., financial contracts, data-sharing agreements).
   6. Formal governance structure or plans to formalize the Community Health Coalition’s organizational structure.
   7. Current funding sources, planned or pending grant applications, and other resources to sustain the Community Health Coalitions.
   8. Previous or ongoing projects or programs the Community Health Coalition has undertaken and their results.

Data

1. Describe the current health and other health-related social service data sources available to the Coalition and the current capacity to access, analyze, and share them.
2. Describe how the Coalition will use Nicholson grant funding to build capacity to acquire, share, and analyze health and health-related social service data.
3. Describe the Coalition’s plan to analyze data sources to identify trends and inform the proposed intervention described below.

Proposed Intervention

While we recognize that the proposed intervention may change as a result of additional data collection and analyses, with the data you currently have available, describe the following:

1. The need
2. The target population
3. The proposed intervention
4. How the Coalition will implement this intervention
5. What services will be provided and by whom
6. What roles Coalition members will play in the intervention (e.g., providing services, administrative support, financial assistance)
7. The relevant metrics for process and outcome objectives (e.g., number of sessions, number of patients, clinical improvements, functional improvements)
8. How the Coalition will evaluate the success of this intervention

**Phase II: Proposal Development and Grant Funding**

Community Health Coalitions invited to advance to Phase II of Nicholson’s grant proposal development process will need to provide Memoranda of Understanding from participating Coalition members. They must also demonstrate the capacity to:

1. Participate in a grant that is partially performance-based.
2. Contribute a match of at least 25% to Nicholson’s grant through a combination of financial and in-kind contributions from Coalition member organizations.

**Project Timeline**

July 21, 2017: Expression of Interest Applications Due

August 18, 2017: Notification of Applicants Selected to Participate in Phase II

**Submission Guidelines**

Submit Expressions of Interest by July 21, 2017 by email to Rachel Cahill, Senior Health Program Officer, at [rcahill@thenicholsonfoundation.org](mailto:rcahill@thenicholsonfoundation.org).

**Questions**

If you have any questions about this REI, contact Rachel Cahill at [rcahill@thenicholsonfoundation.org](mailto:rcahill@thenicholsonfoundation.org).

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1. Behavioral health includes both mental health and substance misuse conditions [↑](#footnote-ref-1)