

Encouraging Food as Medicine

Request for Proposal

Background

As an organization committed, connected, and invested in our communities, Elevance Health and the Elevance Health Foundation are striving to improve the health of humanity by reducing racial injustice, strengthening our communities, and addressing health inequities in America.

The Elevance Health Foundation recently refined its strategy to underscore this commitment. Anchored by our vision of improving the health of the socially vulnerable through strategic partnership and programs in our communities, the strategy is rooted in demonstrating measurable impact in priority focus areas.

At Elevance Health, we take a broad view of health (e.g., social, clinical, and behavioral drivers) to improve lives of our consumers and communities—and, as such, we believe that food is medicine. Food insecurity, the lack of consistent access to healthy, nutritious food, is one of the most commonly reported unmet health-related social needs in the United States, with 40 percent of households reporting moderate to high levels of food insecurity. Consistent access to nutritious food is an essential part of maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.

As a key pillar of this refined strategy, Elevance Health Foundation will build on its work in Food As Medicine by investing up to \$30 million over the next three years to support programs that address food insecurity while helping individuals reach their full potential for good health through food and nutrition. We are inviting qualified nonprofit organizations with a history of proven, programmatic community initiatives to join us in these efforts.

In an effort to ensure our funding reaches the communities where it is needed most, we are placing an emphasis on programs specifically working to provide healthy and nutritious foods while preventing or addressing chronic conditions through Food As Medicine.

Types of Programs

Elevance Health Foundation will consider proposals from qualified organizations across the U.S. However, at this time we are placing an emphasis on:

- **National programs** promoting scalable and sustainable systemic change
- **Local programs** in California, Georgia, Indiana, New York, Ohio, and Virginia that support socially vulnerable populations with relevant interventions

Grant Program Goals

- Improve clinical outcomes for food insecure individuals with chronic conditions
- Create more access to healthy and nutritious food by improving affordable healthy food options amongst food insecure populations

Grant Range & Term

- **Grant Range:** Open
- **Grant Term:** 1–3 years based on need

Required Information

Successful grant applications should include:

Critical milestones for tracking to specific metrics such as:
Percentage of individuals with one of the following diagnoses enrolled in FAM programming:

- Diabetes (Type 2)
- Heart Disease
- Childhood and Adult Obesity
- Hypertension

Percentage of individuals with specified condition who demonstrate improved metrics and health outcomes:

- Diabetes: Improved HbA1c (<9) levels, decreased ER utilization, reduced BP
- Heart Disease: Reduced/managed BP (<140/90 mm), lowered cholesterol, decreased ER utilization improved medication compliance
- Percentage reduction in hospitalizations/readmissions

Process and outcome measures in one of more of the areas below:

Health Equity

- Support communities of color
- Support socially vulnerable individuals
- Provide culturally relevant interventions

Whole-person Care

- Mental health

Understanding of health-related social needs of population being served

- Transportation
- Safe housing
- Employment

Interventions that are relevant to population being served

- Builds trust through programming that considers unique needs of the individuals served by the program

Collaborations that focus on meeting the needs of the local community

- Community Health Centers/FQHCs
- Community/Faith-based organizations

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility criteria for consideration:

1. Show proof of status as a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization within one of the following subsections of the Internal Revenue Code:
 - 170(B)(1)(a)(vi)—Organization which receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or the general public
 - 509(A)(2)—Organization that normally receives no more than one-third of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business income and at the same time more than one-third of its support from contributions, fees, and gross receipts related to exempt purposes
 - 509(A)(3)—Organizations operated solely for the benefit of and in conjunction with other exempt organizations, typically other public charities
 - 509(a)(3)—Type I
 - 509(a)(3)—Type II
 - 509(a)(3)—Type III functionally integrated
2. Clearly define key measures and accountability standard, including key milestones; and
3. Track and record long-term outcomes of program effectiveness and sustainable change

Submissions

Nonprofit organizations seeking funding to implement community initiatives that align with the above guidelines should [submit an application](#) to be considered in this request for proposal.

Please note: Elevance Health Foundation is not accepting meetings or phone calls of inquiry and respectfully asks that all applicants follow the protocol as presented. Applicants will be contacted by the Elevance Health Foundation with the status of their submission.