

COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENTS 2016-2017, SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH I Request for Applications (RFA)

Due no later than Monday, May 1 at 4 p.m.
2016-2017 Fiscal Year

I. PURPOSE

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) is pleased to release its *Social Determinants of Health I Request for Applications* (RFA) through its Community Health Investments grantmaking program, which was established in 2016 to provide monetary grants to external organizations addressing the social determinants impacting the health and well-being of the Plan's members.

As a public health plan serving Ventura County, GCHP is committed to providing access and quality care for its members, promoting positive health outcomes through integrated care and care coordination across the continuum, and promoting community health. Yet, while the highest quality care is essential to improving community health, it is not sufficient by itself. Social determinants play a critical role in determining the health of the Plan's Medi-Cal members as well as the health of the communities in which they live.

Social determinants of health, as defined by the World Health Organization, are “the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.”¹ Some examples of social determinants of health include: income level, employment, educational attainment, access to health and health care systems, housing, food security, literacy, access to transportation, neighborhood safety, etc. Social determinants of health can significantly influence the life-long health outcomes and well-being of community members. In fact, research has increasingly demonstrated that social and economic conditions contribute to approximately 40% of a person's health status; health behaviors, themselves largely determined by social and physical environments, contribute to 30% of a person's health; clinical care — both access and quality — to 20% of a person's health; and the physical environments to about 10%.² Therefore, in order to attain tangible improvements in population health, it is essential to provide quality health services while simultaneously addressing the social determinants of health.

For its 2016-2017 Social Determinants of Health I RFA, GCHP has selected the following three social determinants of health as priority areas:

- **Access to quality health care**
- **Access to quality and affordable food options**
- **Neighborhood and built environments**

1. World Health Organization. “Social Determinants of Health: Key Concepts.” 2015. http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/key_concepts/en/

2. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. “Our Approach” 2016 <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/our-approach>

II. GOLD COAST HEALTH PLAN

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) is an independent public entity created by a Ventura County ordinance and authorized through Federal Legislation. GCHP is not a county agency. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved implementation of a County Organized Health System (COHS) model, transitioning from fee-for-service Medi-Cal to managed care on June 2, 2009. The purpose of GCHP is to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries, enhance the quality of health care, provide greater access, improve service and provide choice. The Plan provides health benefits to more than 200,000 beneficiaries throughout the county.

In May 2016, GCHP established the Alternative Resources for Community Health (ARCH), an initiative designed to invest a percentage of GCHP's revenue in health care and social services in Ventura County. The ARCH program aims to improve the health of GCHP members through four main strategies: 1) the provision of incentives to its network of providers for value-based performance, 2) reimbursement of enhanced clinical services, based on evidence-based medicine, that are not typically reimbursed by Medi-Cal, 3) the provision of Community Health Investments (CHI) or monetary grants to external organizations that work to improve the health of members by addressing social determinants of health, and 4) the provision of sponsorships to outside organizations in support of specific events with the potential to offer positive visibility to GCHP's mission.

This *Social Determinants of Health I RFA* is the first to be issued by GCHP through ARCH's Community Health Investments grantmaking program.

III. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a Community Health Investments grant, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization with a 509(a) designation indicating that the organization is not a private foundation, or
- Be a public or government entity, and
- Provide high-quality health care and/or health-enhancing supportive services primarily to Medi-Cal recipients and to other medically indigent populations within Ventura County.

IV. QUALIFIED PROJECTS

Under its Social Determinants of Health I RFA, GCHP will consider funding applications that address one of the three social determinants of health prioritized under this funding cycle as described below:

- 1. Access to quality health care.** In spite of having health insurance coverage through GCHP, some of the Plan's members may continue to encounter barriers that preclude them from accessing the health and health-supportive services they need to attain optimal health outcomes. Some examples of these barriers may include provider availability, provider location, linguistic and cultural competency of providers, and effective provider ability to link clinical care to community-based health-enhancing supportive programs, among other barriers. GCHP will consider funding requests for programs that effectively address these and other well-documented barriers impacting access and utilization of health and health-promoting services by GCHP members.

- 2. Access to quality and affordable food options.** Food is fundamental to health and well-being. And yet, many low-income populations are at high risk of experiencing food insecurity. As defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Services, food insecurity may indicate reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet with little or no indication of reduced food intake; or it may indicate disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.³ Individuals must have a sufficient caloric intake to thrive and prevent the onset of certain diseases. Equally important, excessive consumption of highly processed foods with high content of sugar and/or sodium can lead to obesity, cancer, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, among other health conditions. GCHP will consider funding applications for programs that make it possible for vulnerable populations, including seniors, low-income children and youth, the homeless, underserved communities and others to have consistent access to high quality, nutritious and affordable food options in the community. Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate that a majority of those benefiting from the proposed project will be GCHP members.

- 3. Neighborhood and built environments.** The physical environments in which people live can also greatly affect their health. For example, lack of affordable housing and/or overcrowded slum housing with poor ventilation may lead to increases in respiratory ailments and other diseases; lack of sidewalks, playgrounds and parks in neighborhoods may decrease walkability and discourage residents from engaging in outdoor physical activity, which in turn may lead to obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; poor air, water and soil quality also increases the risk of cancer and respiratory ailments; and lack of adequate transportation systems isolate communities and constitute a barrier to accessing health care services, educational, and employment opportunities. GCHP will consider applications seeking to improve the local neighborhood and built environments impacting the health and well-being of GCHP members.

Applicant organizations must:

- Select one of the three social determinants of health listed above and clearly articulate how the selected determinant impacts the health of vulnerable Ventura County residents in general and GCHP members in particular.
- Identify and document the specific health issue(s) impacted by the selected social determinant.
- Identify the population and the geographic area targeted by the proposed project.
- Identify the specific strategies that will be implemented to address the selected social determinant of health and describe how the proposed strategies will lead to tangible health improvements.
- Demonstrate how a majority of the individuals that will benefit from the proposed project will be GCHP members.
- Explain how the proposed strategies will be implemented over the course of 12 months.
- Identify the expected outcomes that you seek to attain through the proposed project.
- Provide specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-based goals and objectives.
- Outline the duties and responsibilities of key staff who will be implementing the proposed project.
- Describe how you will assess progress towards attainment of the grant goals and objectives.

The maximum total award is \$150,000 per project lasting up to 12 months. The application includes a proposal application, a detailed work plan, a budget and budget narrative, the most recent financial statements for the applicant organization, and a list of the members of the board of directors. Collaborative partnerships are encouraged but not required. All applicants must demonstrate competency, experience with the targeted population and selected social determinant of health, financial stability, business integrity and the ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Applications must include all required components and be complete at the time of submission in order to be considered. All application components must be completed using GCHP provided templates and guidance materials.

For detailed information and instructions on how to complete and submit a funding application under GCHP's *Social Determinants of Health I RFA*, please refer to section VIII.

3. U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Definitions of Food Security" 2016.
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security/>

V. USE OF FUNDS

GCHP funds may be used for staff salaries and benefits, operating expenses and equipment directly related to the proposed activities. The maximum allowable indirect cost rate is 10% of salaries and wages only.

The following types of grants are eligible for funding:

- **Project Support** (funds to support a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, with explicit objectives and predetermined cost; ongoing projects will be considered)
- **Direct Services** (funding for the provision of services directly to clients)
- **Systemic Change** (funding designed to change the way in which a system or systems operate in order to improve its functioning)
- **Seed Funding** (funding that supports the start-up costs of a new program)
- **Capital and Equipment** (funds to help an organization with long-lasting physical assets. For capital requests, GCHP will only consider requests for the last funds needed to complete a capital renovation. Capital requests are limited to \$50,000 and the proposed program that will reside in the renovated structure must commence within nine months of the grant award)

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Providing direct medical care to the uninsured.
- Paying for medical services billable to other payers.
- Individuals.
- Research.
- Endowments and annual fund drives.
- Deficit or debt retirement.
- “Miscellaneous” line items.

VI. SELECTION PROCESS

All applications will be reviewed by a Review Committee made up of GCHP staff and an expert consultant. The Review Committee members may consider a variety of criteria including, but not limited to:

- Organizational background and capacity to address selected social determinant of health.
- Project targets diverse populations and contributes to geographic equity in Ventura County.
- Clear articulation of how selected determinant affects health, demonstrated need, and alignment with GCHP selected priorities.
- Proposal request is sound and feasible and clearly articulates the roles of collaborative partners and staff.
- Proposal identifies measurable and attainable benchmarks.
- Appropriate budget development, justification and indirect costs.
- Availability of in-kind or matching funds.
- Evidence of sustainability beyond the grant period by grantee demonstration of adequate revenue streams and ability to secure additional funding.
- Demonstrated capacity to evaluate the project.
- Evidence that a significant number of those benefiting from the proposed project will be GCHP beneficiaries.

All applicants selected for funding will be required to enter into the Grant Agreement provided by GCHP.

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the course of the grant award contract, GCHP will monitor the organizations selected for funding to ensure that they are performing according to the terms of their grant award agreement. Grantees will be required to submit progress reports every six months that provide complete and accurate documentation of program activities using forms provided by GCHP. Such documentation must include specific information about the evaluation benchmarks and expenditures to date.

VIII. APPLICATION COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION

Follow the steps below to complete and submit your application. **Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.**

Step 1: Complete Application Forms

Complete PDF Application Forms 1 – 4 by clicking on the links below and filling in your answers in the spaces provided. Once completed, save the documents to your computer.

1. [Application Narrative](#)
2. [Workplan - Attachment A](#). To complete your Workplan, please refer to the [Workplan Guidance Sample Document](#)
3. [Budget - Attachment B](#), which includes the budget – Tab 1 of spreadsheet; a budget narrative – Tab 2 of spreadsheet; and a worksheet identifying other sources of support for the project – Tab 3 of the spreadsheet
4. [Acknowledgement - Attachment C](#)

Step 2: Email Completed Application Forms 1–4

Email completed PDF Application Forms 1–4 to grants@goldchp.org.

The subject line of your email should read: *Organization's Name, Social Determinants of Health I Application.*

- Attach completed PDF application forms 1–4 to your email. Attachments must be titled as follows:
 - » Organization's Name, SDH I, Application Narrative 2016-17
 - » Organization's Name, SDH I, Workplan – Attachment A 2016-17
 - » Organization's Name, DDH I, Budget – Attachment B 2016-17
 - » Organization's Name, SDH I, Acknowledgement – Attachment C 2016-17

Step 3 Overnight Mail

Overnight (e.g., FedEx) seven hard copies and a signed original copy of completed Forms 1–4 above, **PLUS** one hard copy **ONLY** of the following documents:

- [Signed Form W-9](#)
- 501(c)(3) IRS notification letter
- Most recent audited financial statements and Tax Form 990
- Lists of Board of Directors or Board of Governors and senior management staff. Include names, titles, and connections to GCHP. If no connection to GCHP, please write “no connection” next to each name.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for organizations applying through a fiscal agent

Overnight hard copies to:

Sarah Palomino
Community Health Investments Grantmaking Program
Gold Coast Health Plan
711 E. Daily Drive, Suite106
Camarillo,CA 93010

All electronic and hard copies must arrive at GCHP no later than Monday, May 1 at 4 p.m.
Due to volume and potential confusion in tracking applications, walk-ins will not be accepted for consideration.

Step 4. Application Checklist

Please click on the link below and complete the Application Checklist Form to make sure that you have submitted all the required digital and hard-copy application documents. Print the Checklist and use it as a cover sheet for your signed original printed application.

- [Application Checklist](#)

Missing entire documents or pages of a document may be considered as an incomplete application and may not be reviewed.

IX. INFORMATIONAL CALL/WEBINAR

GCHP will be holding an informational conference call/webinar to answer questions regarding the RFA. Prospective applicants are encouraged to participate.

Informational Conference Call/Webinar - Social Determinants of Health I RFA 2016-2017

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 from 11 a.m to 12:30 p.m. PDT

Please join the call/webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/905747229>
You can also dial in using your phone at: (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 905-747-229.

Please RSVP for the conference call/webinar and send in your questions in advance via email to KEscalante@goldchp.org
by April 17 at 12 p.m.

Funding announcements will be made by the end of June.

All decisions are final, and there will be no appeal process.