



Rhode Island Department of Health
Refugee Health Promotion Grant
2023 Grant Application Guidance

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) aims to advance health equity for all populations by working to eliminate health disparities, address the socioeconomic and environmental determinants of health, and ensure access to quality health services for all Rhode Islanders, including our vulnerable populations. For the past decade, RIDOH has made strides to improve population health outcomes and achieve Rhode Island's goals for [Healthy People 2030](#). However, disparities persist, and the latest data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the average life expectancy has declined over the past few years. In addition, vulnerable populations (e.g. women, racial and ethnic populations, people with disabilities, and people with low socioeconomic status) continue to experience higher mortality and poorer overall health (as measured by incidences of chronic and infectious diseases, maternal and child health indicators, and behavioral risk factors), as well as disparities in access to medical and other healthcare resources.

RIDOH's strategic vision is grounded in the idea that every Rhode Islander, in every ZIP code, should have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Achieving and maintaining good health is more likely when people are part of communities, schools, worksites, childcare, healthcare systems, and environments that promote health. Physical and emotional health are an integral part in arriving to self-reliance process for refugees and other [ORR-eligible special populations](#) as they resettle in Rhode Island.

It takes multiple organizations and community members working together to create healthier, more equitable places and systems.

RIDOH proposes to fund **innovative** projects aimed at improving the health and wellness of [ORR-Eligible populations](#) in Rhode Island.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Rhode Island Department of Health Refugee Health Program request innovative proposals for targeted engagement with one or more of the following [ORR-Eligible populations](#) in Rhode Island: **Refugees, Asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Afghan Humanitarian Parolees, Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees.**

The Refugee Health Promotion proposals must demonstrate their ability to promote health and emotional wellness for [ORR-Eligible populations](#) in Rhode Island preferably who have arrived within the last two years, although Grantees may choose to focus on serving refugees who have arrived in Rhode Island within the first five years. Grantees are strongly encouraged to focus programs on ORR-Eligible populations who have the most persistent, pressing, or underserved mental health needs.

Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their approach.

Grant awards of up to **\$4,975** are available for projects/programs.

Applicants must specify in their grant request which of the following priority areas their proposal aims to address:

Increasing health literacy and targeted health outreach to individuals, through one or more of the following activities:

- Addressing a priority health condition that represents a distinct burden for resettling refugee populations. (See [Center for Disease Control and Prevention Refugee Health Profiles](#)).
- Providing opportunities through educational classes or targeted health outreach to increase health literacy for ORR-eligible populations that empower clients to make informed health decisions.

Grantees should use user-tested or validated curricula and materials if possible. Grantees should provide classes in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Grantees should conduct pre- and post-assessments to evaluate the level of knowledge gained by recipients.

Increasing mental health literacy, through one or more of the following activities:

- Identify and conduct outreach to mainstream mental health providers versed in trauma-informed services to determine potential partners for the program.
- Develop a training curriculum for mainstream providers on refugee mental health and other trainings to respond to provider-specific needs; and/or partner with local refugee resettlement agencies and/or RIM/BIPOC community-based organizations to provide such trainings.
- Increase the pool of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors in the resettlement network by sponsoring certification training fees; new MHFA instructors are expected to conduct trainings to build mental health capacity in refugee communities and refugee-serving providers.
- Conduct outreach and provide educational opportunities for refugees to learn about mental health and emotional wellness to decrease stigma about, and increase access to, services.

For trainings: Grantees should use user-tested or validated curricula and materials if possible. Grantees should provide classes in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Grantees should conduct pre- and post-assessments to evaluate the level of knowledge gained by recipients.

Medical and Mental Health Navigation and Support, through one or more of the following activities:

- Provide services to ensure individuals most at-risk can navigate and access complex health care systems.
- Increase medical and mental health navigation and support services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for specific ORR-Eligible populations who have the most persistent, pressing, or underserved mental and medical health needs by sponsoring trainings and certifications within targeted ORR-eligible population communities.

Grantees are required to develop a method to identify those most in need of services. Grantees should develop a plan of care (POC) for each client that includes clearly defined and appropriate referrals and access to medical assistance or insurance to sufficiently address the health needs of the individual.

For trainings: Grantees should use user-tested or validated curricula and materials if possible. Grantees should provide classes in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Grantees should conduct pre- and post-assessments to evaluate the level of knowledge gained by recipients.

Coordinating mental health care, through one or more of the following activities:

- Develop direct partnerships between mental health service providers and refugee-serving organizations to ensure a well-coordinated referral process for refugees in need of services.
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce language barriers to mental health services. Strategies should be guided by the [National Standards for Culturally Linguistically Appropriate Services](#). (Example of programming include but not limited to funding refugee community health workers to be trained in medical interpretation with a focus on mental/behavioral health).

For trainings: Grantees should use user-tested or validated curricula and materials if possible. Grantees should provide classes in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Grantees should conduct pre- and post-assessments to evaluate the level of knowledge gained by recipients.

Organizing wellness groups that connect individuals with social groups and learning activities that promote their health and well-being., through one or more of the following activities:

- Host or facilitate community-based activities, targeted wellness group activities for specific interests and populations (e.g., youth, women, or the elderly.), and other opportunities for relationship building amongst refugee populations to overcome feelings of isolation.
- Host or facilitate groups that promotes mental health and healing for refugees by connecting refugees to the arts, leadership development and social or environmental justice.

Grantees should use evidence-based interventions or methods that are promising practices. Grantees should provide wellness group activities in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Grantees should conduct pre- and post-assessments to gauge the value of the activity.

TIMELINE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- All program initiatives that are chosen will need to complete all program activities by **August 31, 2023**.
- Organizations must have the capacity to provide timely reports of progress and success of activities by the dates provided in advance by the Rhode Island Department of Health Refugee Health program

Instructions: Please read through and complete each of the following sections. Your application will be scored on a point basis totaling 100 points. Scores below 70 will not be considered for funding. Each section below should be in narrative format. The application in total should be no more than ten (10) typewritten pages. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

- **Budget & Compliance (20 pts)**

Please describe your proposed budget expenses and complete the budget form included in this application. **NOTE: DUE TO FEDERAL BUDGET RESTRICTIONS, GRANT FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOOD OR BEVERAGES.**

- **Review Criteria (as applicable):**

- Do the proposed program activities align with Grant specifications/requirements for funded activities?
- Does the proposed budget make acceptable use of funding?

- **Scope of Work, Goals and Objectives (30 pts)**

Please describe the issue(s), need, and audience for your program.

- **Review Criteria (as applicable):**

- Is the aim of the program, need, and audience to be served been clearly articulated?
- Does the organization have the necessary resources and human capital to carry out this program?
- Is the demand for the services that would be provided by this proposed program great enough to carry it on into the future?
- Are the overall strategy and methods well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the program? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?
- Does the proposed program clearly state how they will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services or activities?
- Does the proposed program address an important problem or critical barrier to address refugee health? How will the proposed program be successful in changing the factors/circumstances that contribute to this problem(s)?

- **Agency Description & Background (20 pts)**

Please describe staff roles and responsibilities for your program as well as past experience in implementing similar or intended program.

- **Review Criteria (as applicable):**

- **Capacity.** Is the organization well suited to carry out the program/project?
- **Staff.** Is the staff sufficient to carry out the proposed activities? Do the organization staff/volunteers have the appropriate experience and training to carry out the program activities successfully? Are staff roles and responsibilities clearly identified?
- **Environment.** Will the community/setting in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Is the organizational support, equipment, and any other physical resources available and adequate for the proposed program activities? Does this organization have access to special resources/circumstances that would enhance the work carried out in this program?
- **Partnerships.** Will the work be carried out with the assistance of other organizations/community collaboration? If so, to what degree will these parties contribute to the proposed program/activity?

- **Innovation (20 pts)**
 - **Review Criteria (as applicable):**
 - Does the proposed program provide services/opportunities that are not currently available elsewhere to the communities that would be served? If not, how will the proposed program be better than what is currently available and how does this merit funding?
 - Does the program use evidence-based curriculum or interventions or methods that have promising practices?
- **Reporting (10 pts)**
 - Does the proposed program identify defined outcomes to measure success of the proposed activities?
 - Does program or activities identify pre/post assessment evaluate the level of knowledge or gauge the value gained by recipients?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Adderlin Bailey at 401-222-5162. Applications may be submitted via email to adderlin.bailey@health.ri.gov or by US mail to the address below. **Mailed applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, 2023. FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Mailing address:
Health Equity Institute
RI Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 304
Providence, RI 02908