



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

February 7, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Tribal Community Health Worker Program - Grant Opportunity

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), the HCA hereby invites your participation in the following matter.

Purpose

In March 2022, ESSB 5693, Sec. 211 (103) appropriated 2 million in state dollars to HCA to administer a 2-year community health worker (CHW) grant in **primary care settings serving children birth through 18 years**. HCA anticipates an additional 6 million state dollars will be appropriated during this legislative session to support the work through December 2024.

Additionally, HCA was directed to determine whether the grant activities are eligible for federal match funding. HCA has confirmed eligibility for federal match funding with an anticipated additional 2 million in drawing federal match dollars over the 2-year timeframe (\$500,000 in FY 2023; \$1,000,000 in FY 2024; \$500,000 in FY 2025).

Currently, HCA is contracting with 24 clinics funding for 37 CHW positions within pediatric primary care organizations to **provide outreach, informal counseling, and social supports for health-related social needs**, funded through a request for application (RFA) process.

Further, HCA intends to work with the University of Washington Value and Systems Science Lab (VSSL) to conduct an evaluation of the project to support required legislative reports and inform future sustainable reimbursement options for CHW services and integrated models of care.

Utilizing the additional federal match funds, HCA would like to partner with Tribes and urban Indian organizations (UIO) to support a CHW or Community Health Representative (CHR) position within their primary care settings.

Request for Inquiry

Tribes and UIO interested in participating in the Tribal Community Health Worker Program grant opportunity may submit a plan including the following:

- Proposed revisions to the Statement of Work (attached)
- Confirmation of request for 1 or 2 roles
- If requesting additional funding, please provide a request for additional funding indicating how much is being requested and what the funding will be used for
- Indication of preference for participating in the reporting and evaluation component of this project. Options include:
 - Please indicate any preferences for participating in the reporting components of this project.
 - Working with the University of Washington Value and Systems Science Lab (VSSL) on the evaluation
 - If prefer a different entity for evaluation, please include who you would prefer to partner with in your plan.

If your Tribe, UIO, or IHCP is interested in participating in this project, please email christine.cole@hca.wa.gov and your Regional Tribal Liaison at your earliest convenience.

Please submit your plan for participating in the Tribal Community Health Worker program to christine.cole@hca.wa.gov and your Regional Tribal Liaison no later than March 31, 2023.

Information Available

Additional information regarding HCA's Community Health Worker Grant can be found on the website at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/clinical-collaboration-and-initiatives/community-health-worker-chw-grant>.

Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, by email at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov if you have any questions or concerns, including requesting a formal consultation.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director

Enclosure

By email

cc: Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, AIHC
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA