



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP # 20241025
RELEASE DATE: Monday, September 16, 2024

MITIGATING AIR QUALITY-RELATED HEALTH CONDITIONS:
PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND MANAGEMENT
RFP SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, October 25, 2024

Proposal Contact: info@dhcd.org

DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT AND FOUNDATION

Mitigating Air Quality-Related Health Conditions

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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I. TIMELINE

The RFP process will operate along the following timeline: [Note: The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (District and Foundation) reserves the right to modify the stated schedule of events at any time.]

Date	Activity
Monday, September 16, 2024	Release Request for Proposals.
Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 10 AM -11 AM	Mandatory Bidder's Meeting via Zoom RSVP to Join. Register here .
Friday, October 25, 2024	Applications due to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation via electronic submission in Foundant by 11:59pm. Please reference <i>Start Application</i> section for links to apply.
Monday, October 28 – Thursday, December 5, 2024	Internal review of submitted applications.
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	Program Committee reviews staff recommendations.
Tuesday, December 17, 2024	Board of Directors approve applicant(s) at the December Board Meeting.
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	Contract begins.
Thursday, December 31, 2026	Contract ends.

Desert Healthcare District and Foundation staff will be available for technical assistance and questions at info@dhcd.org. The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation reserves the sole right to determine the timing and content of the responses to all questions and requests for additional information.

Questions and information requests can be submitted to:

Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Staff
E-mail: info@dhcd.org

II. BACKGROUND

A. Desert Healthcare District and Foundation

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (District and Foundation) includes more than 400,000 residents and encompasses the entire Coachella Valley. The mission and vision of the District and Foundation focus on the advancement of community wellness in the Coachella Valley:

MISSION: To achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all District residents.

VISION: Equitably connecting Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness services and programs through philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation are dedicated to fulfilling their mission and vision through the execution of their 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. This comprehensive plan outlines goals and strategies aimed at expanding access to primary and specialty care services, enhancing behavioral and mental health services, improving economic stability, supporting environmental initiatives, and promoting general health education. The District and Foundation's grant program fosters collaboration and invests in the services and programs of local nonprofits, health service providers, and public agencies that align with their mission, vision, and strategic plan. In 2023, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation revised their Strategic Plan to elevate environmental health as a top priority. This request for proposals focuses on addressing environmental health issues by funding projects that mitigate the impact of air pollution in the Coachella Valley.

B. Prioritization of Mitigating Air Quality-Related Health Conditions

Air pollution is a critical environmental issue that poses significant risks to public health. It results from the release of harmful substances into the atmosphere, including particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants originate from various sources such as industrial activities, vehicular emissions, and agricultural practices. The health impacts of air pollution are profound and wide-ranging, affecting respiratory and cardiovascular systems, exacerbating chronic conditions like asthma and bronchitis, and increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Long-term exposure can lead to severe health problems, including lung cancer and reduced life expectancy. Vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are particularly at risk. Addressing air pollution is therefore essential for safeguarding public health and improving the quality of life in affected communities in the Coachella Valley.

Air pollution in the Coachella Valley, exacerbated by emissions from vehicles, agricultural activities, and desert dust, increased significantly after Tropical Storm Hillary. Another important source of air pollution is the continuous drying of the Salton Sea, which emits harmful dust particles, increasing the region's levels of particulate matter (PM) and

contributing to respiratory issues such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The high concentrations of PM and ozone in the area pose serious health risks, including cardiovascular diseases and impaired lung function¹. Comprehensive efforts to monitor and mitigate air pollution, including addressing the environmental issues of the Salton Sea, are crucial to protect public health and improve the quality of life in the Coachella Valley.

The District and Foundation hosted an interactive community data walk to engage local organizations, service providers, community residents, and other stakeholders in discussions about research and data findings focused on the various impacts of air pollution. These findings covered hospital utilization, economic impact, sources of air pollution, health disparities, air quality-related health conditions, and relevant policy actions and strategies. During the data walk, participants reviewed the collected community data, shared their interpretations, and collaborated to identify challenges and opportunities based on their expertise. This collaborative approach aimed to drive community change in addressing air quality and health issues. Stakeholders provided diverse perspectives that recontextualized the data, highlighting current challenges and potential opportunities for impactful action. Key themes emerged from the discussions on mitigating air-related health conditions, including strategies for prevention, improving the diagnosis of air-related health issues, and enhancing access to health services to mitigate the adverse effects of poor air quality on health outcomes.

III. PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

In response to the uplifted and prioritized needs expressed by the convening of local community stakeholders, the District and Foundation is seeking proposals from organizations that will:

- Increase and enhance awareness and foster connections to mitigate the impact of air quality on health conditions and outcomes.
- Evaluate household environments to identify methods for improving indoor air quality.
- Increase access to health services to reduce the impact of poor air quality on health.

Specifically, the District and Foundation is seeking to support projects that aim to prevent, diagnose, and manage poor air quality-related health conditions for Coachella Valley residents. For clarity, the District and Foundation defines Households Air Quality Support Programs, and Wrap-Around Services as follows:

Household: a group of individuals, related or unrelated, who occupy a single housing unit and share living arrangements.

Air Quality Support Programs: initiatives that provide affordable or no-cost resources and services that help individuals and households monitor and improve health outcomes due to poor indoor air quality.

Wrap-Around Services: a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental health issues by providing a coordinated array of support services tailored to meet the diverse needs of individuals and communities that aim to mitigate the effects of poor air quality.

1. South Coast Air Quality Management District- Air Quality and Health Effects

The District and Foundation support the utilization of subcontractors to fulfill components of proposed projects. If applying with subcontractors, a Memorandum of Understanding and an aligned budget are required.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation is accepting applications from qualified organizations. To be eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit and tax-exempt organization, a governmental, tribal, or public entity, including, healthcare service providers such as federally qualified health centers, and local clinics.
- Directly serve Coachella Valley residents living within the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation boundaries.
- Have current audited financial statements.
- Attend the mandatory Bidder’s Meeting on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024, from 10:00 am - 11:00 am via Zoom.**
- Support one or more of the strategies identified in the Results-Based Accountability Strategy Map (Section V)
- Submit an application with a project budget not to exceed \$200,000 over a two-year grant term.

Preference will be given to organizations that demonstrate a collaborative approach to accomplishing one or more of the stated project strategies listed in Section V.

V. RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY STRATEGY MAP

Organizations applying for the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation’s request for proposals are required to support one or more of the strategies listed below. You will only be required to report on the performance measures that align with your project. Performance measures are included in the Strategy Map; however, this list is not comprehensive. Additional relevant data points that your project may be able to obtain could also be considered as “other.”

Goal:
All Coachella Valley residents are equipped to prevent and manage air quality-related health conditions.
Target Population:
Coachella Valley residents diagnosed with or at risk of developing an air quality-related health condition located within the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation’s boundaries.
Strategy 1:

Increase and enhance awareness and foster connections to mitigate the impact of air quality on health conditions and outcomes.

Performance Measures:

- # of workshops, seminars, trainings provided
- # of clients who reported utilizing the information/resources learned
- # of clients provided wrap-around services by your organization
- # of clients referred to external wrap-around services
- # of clients connected to external wrap-around services
- Other _____

Strategy 2:

Evaluate household environments to identify methods for improving indoor air quality

Performance Measures:

- # of indoor air quality assessments
- # of indoor air quality devices installed
- # of households served
- # of clients served
- # of households referred to external air quality support programs
- # of households connected to external air quality support programs
- Other _____

Strategy 3:

Increase access to health services to reduce the impact of poor air quality on health

Performance Measures:

- # of clients served
- # of referrals received
- # of referrals provided
- # of screenings
- # of clients diagnosed with health conditions related to poor air quality
- # of new or modified treatment plans
- # of clients provided follow-up care
- Other _____

VI. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The link to submit a grant application can be found on the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's website under the *Request for Proposals* tab on the side Menu:

<https://dhcd.org/Request-for-Proposals>. All applicants must submit applications in an online grant portal. To access the application, organizations must have an active account with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's grant portal, Foundant.

- If your organization already has an account, please click the link in Section IX to submit an application for this request for proposals.
- If your organization already has an account, but needs a password reset, please select the "Forgot your Password" button following the link in Section IX.
- If your organization does not have an account, you can create one by clicking on the link in Section IX and select the "Create New Account" button.

In order to submit a complete application in Foundant, all organizations are required to include the following supportive documentation:

- 501(c)3 determination letter
- Project budget using the DHCD [budget template](#)
- Most recent Fiscal Year End Financial Statements that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant (CPA). Submitted audited financials must cover a time period within the last 18 months.
- Most Recent Year-To-Date Financial Statement that includes a Profit and Loss Statement (P&L) and Balance Sheet covering a time period within the last three months.
- Current Organizational FY budget
- Minutes from Board Meeting when Audited Financials were approved
- Current Strategic Plan
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) if applicable
- List of Board of Directors and Terms

The total funding available for this request for proposals is \$1,000,000. The awarded applicants will have budgets that do not exceed a maximum amount of \$200,000 over two years. The project contract will be for two years beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. This is a competitive process, which means not all qualifying proposals will be funded.

VII. REPORTING GUIDELINES

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation utilizes Foundant for progress and final report submissions during the grant contract term. For the two-year grant term, selected applicants will be required to submit progress reports every six months and a final report at the end of the project. Progress reports include narrative highlighting progress towards deliverables, challenges encountered during the project, success stories, and other relevant details. Additionally, reports will include metrics related to your project's Results-Based Accountability performance measures (as outlined in Section V), along with an explanation of the story behind these numbers. Additionally, for the financial aspect of the project, the District and Foundation require submission of a budget report, payroll documentation, invoices and proof of payment, receipts, and other supporting expense documentation during each progress report period. Final reports include narrative questions about the entirety of the project. Additional details, timelines, and instructions will be provided in the grant contract and during post award meetings.

VIII. PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCESS

Grants awarded through this request for proposal process will focus on preventing, diagnosing, and managing poor air quality-related health conditions. To apply for a grant, organizations must submit an application online by 11:59 pm on Friday, October 25, 2024, using Foundant, Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's grant portal. Organizations

are limited to submitting one application. Detailed steps to the proposal selection process are as follows:

1. Submit an application with all required documents to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation by 11:59 pm on Friday, October 25, 2024. Applications are submitted online using Foundant.
2. Applications and documents will be reviewed by the grants team starting on Monday, October 28 – December 5, 2024. As part of our review process, applicants that meet requirements and eligibility may be invited to a Proposal Conference to address follow-up questions and make any necessary modifications to their final application.
3. Applications are then presented to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's Program Committee for discussion and recommendations on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 5:00 pm.
 - a. Applicants being recommended for funding to the Program Committee will be sent an email inviting them to join the meeting, via Zoom.
4. The applications will then be presented to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board of Directors who will review and vote on the approval of applicants on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 5:30 pm.
 - a. Applicants being recommended for funding to the Board of Directors Meetings will be sent an email inviting them to join the meeting in person or via Zoom.
5. All applicants will be notified of their advancement. If approved for funding, selected applicants will be notified of the award and sent out a contract for signature. The contract will begin January 1, 2025, and end December 31, 2026.

IX. START APPLICATION

If you are new to applying to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, click here to create an account: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhcd>

If your organization already has an account with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, but needs a password reset, please select the "Forgot your Password" button from the following link: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhcd>

If you already have a grant portal account with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, click here to apply: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhcd>

Do not submit your application until you have attended the mandatory bidder's meeting on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024, from 10:00 am – 11:00 am**. Click [here](#) to register for the Bidder's Meeting. Should you have any questions regarding this Request for Proposals or need technical assistance with the District's grant portal, please email info@dhcd.org.