



Multicultural Outreach Program, Epilepsy Foundation

## **2023 Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Mini-Grant Project**

### ***Year 2 SDOH Focus Area: Rural Health, Community Health Workers (CHWs), Digital Inclusion***

The Multicultural Outreach Program of the Epilepsy Foundation (EF) invites Epilepsy Foundation affiliates and national partners of the Foundation's CDC Cooperative Agreement to implement mini-grant projects to connect more people living with epilepsy to social services to address social determinants of health, such as rural health, community health workers (CHWs), and digital inclusion. In partnership, EF affiliates and multi-sector organizations may apply for one of ten (10) Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) mini grants in the amount of **\$10,000**. Funding is provided on a non-competitive basis through the Epilepsy Foundation's Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agreement number 5 NU58DP006965-02-00.

Collaborations between EF affiliates, epilepsy-related agencies, and multi-sector organizations are required to be eligible for mini-grant funds. A ***multi-sector organization*** includes several aspects of a community, such as education, criminal justice, social services, public health, faith/spirituality, etc. Organizations with expertise in rural health, community health workers, digital inequities are highly recommended for Year 2 funding from EF's CDC Cooperative Agreement.

The following national partners are considered multi-sector organizations and have agreed to link their members to epilepsy agencies for this funding opportunity: [American Public Health Association](#), [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#), [Umemba Health](#), [National Rural Health Association](#), and the [National Area Health Education Center Organization](#). Local multi-sector organizations, such as public health coalitions or collaborations, CHW associations, rural health agencies, or area health education centers (AHECs), etc., may also be suitable partners for this opportunity. Partners are eligible to apply for this funding as the lead organization but must be in collaboration with an [EF Affiliate](#), EF regional team member or epilepsy-related agency.

To be considered for this funding, please submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) stating your collaboration and your interest in being funded to address unmet social needs of people living with epilepsy by the stated deadline. LOIs will reviewed by one of EF's CDC project officers and EF staff.

Upon review of LOIs, chosen collaborations will be invited to complete full SDOH mini grant applications including action plans, memorandums of agreement (MOAs), W-9s (if applicable), and detailed budgets to confirm participation in the 2023 SDOH mini grant project.

The chosen collaborations will be invited to participate in the **first project meeting** scheduled for **2 pm EST on Wednesday, February 8, 2023**.

Proposed activities may include patient and public education, awareness, and media campaigns, and/or linkage and referral services. Existing EF resources, including Seizure First Aid Trainings, past racial and ethnic media campaigns, etc. should be utilized. Established events and activities of multi-sector partners, such as social service fairs and community outreach efforts, should be considered as well.

The SDOH Mini-Grant Letter of Interest (LOI) should be: one to three pages in length, single-spaced, in Times New Roman font (12 pt.) with 1-inch margins.

The LOI should address the following:

1. A description of the geographic reach and size of population with epilepsy served by your office, highlighting rural areas;
2. Explanation of collaboration between epilepsy agency and multi-sector organization. State if your organization needs support with confirming partnership or if collaboration has already been confirmed;
3. Understanding of social needs of PWEs in your area (community or state level), including rural health disparities or lack of broadband access. Experience serving diverse and multicultural communities;
4. Proposed activities to increase awareness of epilepsy among multi-sector organization's members/clients and proposed activities to connect and/or link PWEs with social services, such as digital resources. [Timeline for activities should include February to August 2023];
5. Description of sustainability of partnerships beyond the term of this project with a focus on linking PWEs to social services; and
6. Proposed expenditures for mini-grant funds [Please note that these funds are not to support hiring new personnel or covering salaries for staff not directly involved in activities. Budgets should align with proposed activities and partnerships].

If you have never written a letter of interest or intent, please consider reviewing tips from GrantWatch [here](#).

### **Intended Program Outcomes**

The intended outcomes of this project are:

- Increased awareness of epilepsy disparities among diverse populations, especially in rural areas
- Increased epilepsy knowledge among rural health providers, CHWs and digital inclusion specialists
- Increased local linkage and referral systems between EF network and social service providers
- Reduced unmet social needs of people with epilepsy living in rural areas or those impacted by the digital divide

### **SDOH Year 2 CONSIDERATIONS**

Applicants should consider the following regarding applying for SDOH Mini-Grants:

- How can you leverage your existing activities to increase awareness around digital equity?
- What types of resources for people with epilepsy in rural areas exists in your community?
- Have you considered planning and designing a community health worker program?
- How will you link people living with epilepsy with lack of broadband access to telehealth services or digital resources?

- What type of organizational changes may need to occur to link and refer people living with epilepsy to social services in your area/state/city beyond this project, such as incorporating SDOH assessments into intake processes?

### MINI-GRANT GUIDELINES

- No more than 10 awards will be granted through this funding opportunity, and each award will be funded up to \$10,000.
- An estimated itemized budget must accompany the full grant application, but a summary is appropriate for the LOI. *The supplementation of salaries for key project staff is not allowed but stipends or reimbursements for work completed as part of the grant can be given to project staff.*
- Activities should be within these categories: health education, outreach, media and communications, awareness, or training. Applicants that are funded will be required to evaluate all program activities and are mandated to report on proposed activities.
- Projects are required to provide epilepsy health education and awareness activities for at least **six months** (*February - August 2023*), including planning activities.
  - Planning activities may include finalizing collaborations with partners, confirming training dates and securing necessary resources, such as usage of online platforms, i.e. Zoom, etc.
- Patient education activities **should** provide strong educational components and result in the transference of skills (i.e. health literacy, relaxation, exercise, positive thinking, proper dietary practices and other techniques that will improve coping mechanism of persons with epilepsy and/or their caregivers). Grant funds may be used to pay for expert presenters. Resources from, and connections back to, the **Foundation** should be utilized whenever possible.
- Projects featuring public health education and awareness activities targeting minority populations and diverse workforces, such as CHWs, are required to include **seizure first aid information** and/or **trainings, such as the CHW Epilepsy Self-Management Training.**
- Projects featuring public health education and awareness information through **communications channels, such as newspapers, radio, social media**, etc., are required to include seizure first aid information from the **Stay, Safe, Side Campaign.**
- Projects may include participation in existing local or virtual epilepsy and/or social service activities, such as walks or trainings. For example, a multi-sector health agency may help diversify the participation of an existing seizure first aid training hosted by the local epilepsy affiliate by assisting with event promotion and marketing or an EF affiliate may link PWEs to social services by marketing multi-sector org's events or an epilepsy training may be planned for CHWs or digital inclusion specialists.
- Projects may include activities to add social determinant assessments to EF affiliates' intake process or add social service agencies to helpline or resource directory.
- Project funding may **not** be utilized to support fundraising activities (such as walks or galas) other than to the extent of educational and awareness activities.

- Grant funds cannot be used to develop educational materials. **Many EF resources are available online. Materials may be translated if need be.**
- Grant funds can be used for efforts to garner media attention for epilepsy awareness events and/or to provide epilepsy health education to the community at-large in rural settings. This public awareness campaign can be used to generate more public support for epilepsy concerns. Public awareness campaigns may be exclusive activities and **should be connected to existing EF media outreach efforts**, such as the Essence, Anti-Stigma, Univision, Native Voice or Chinese New Year ads. *EF Multicultural Outreach Program staff should be consulted prior to publishing newspaper, radio, or digital ads to ensure marketing and messaging is consistent.*
- All COVID-19 guidelines should be followed based on the location of proposed activities.

Here are examples of proposed activities in patient, provider, or public education:

### **Patient Education Examples**

- Create and distribute a referral list of area facilities and physicians that provide medical treatment for epilepsy and seizure related medical conditions (i.e. neurologists, epilepsy nurses, etc.) with local community health clinics or federally qualified health centers, especially in rural areas, that see a large population of minority patients
- Schedule and promote online or in-person training opportunities that enhance self-management or seizure first aid for patients' families in rural areas
- Provide outreach to African Americans, Hispanics and/or individuals in rural areas with epilepsy or at-risk of having seizures via telephone hotline, literature updates, online education sessions, teleconference education discussions, home/sick-and-shut-in drive-by parades, peer counseling, and self-management skills.
- Create honoring/celebration activities for underserved epilepsy patients, caregivers and/or their children by making and highlighting their unique stories through videos, social media or local media

### **Public Education Examples**

- Conduct or schedule presentations on epilepsy health education and/or seizure first aid training in the community or online
- Plan or participate in epilepsy awareness activities and host activities during national observances, such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, Rare Disease Day, Minority Health Month, Women's Health Month, Stroke Month, Heart Month, Pride Month, Men's Health Month, etc.
- Enhance public education via media outlets, including social media, such as being interviewed on a local television station or placing a seizure first aid flyer in local newspaper
- Advocacy efforts for policies, such as all school personnel being required to know seizure first aid or schools having seizure safe plans (Seizures Safe Schools), etc.; however, funds may **not** be used for direct lobbying

- Connect with digital inclusion specialists to provide epilepsy awareness and digital resources to individuals with limited broadband access, such as displaying resources and books related to epilepsy at libraries with Internet access services

### **Provider Education Examples**

- Coordinate epilepsy disparities educational sessions or seizure first aid trainings online (with or without continuing education units) for health providers, including CHWs, rural health clinicians, physicians, nurses, public health staff and/or others. [*The Foundation is a provider of CPH and CHES continuing education units. Through partnership with other CE providers, CME or CNE units may also be provided for trainings.*]
- Provide local health providers, CHWs, health educators, and public health officials with epilepsy health education materials to display in their lobbies or distribute online for patients
- Promote epilepsy health education opportunities, such as Project ECHO, to providers through local chapters of medical and health-related associations, such as the AHECs and state APHA affiliates to connect with rural health providers

### **Important Reference Links**

#### *Rural Health*

- [Mapping rural America's diversity and demographic change](#)
- [Out of the Shadows: Reducing the Rural Impact of Epilepsy](#)
- [Disparities in the nationwide distribution of epilepsy centers](#)
- [A systematic literature review of health disparities among rural people with epilepsy \(RPWE\) in the United States and Canada](#)

#### *Community Health Workers (CHWs)*

- [Community Health Worker Curriculum for Self-Management in Epilepsy](#)
- [Community health workers to improve adherence to anti-seizure medication in rural South Africa: Is it cost-effective? \(Africa\)](#)
- [Diagnosis of epileptic seizures by community health workers using a mobile app: A comparison with physicians and a neurologist](#)

#### *Digital Inclusion*

- [Digital inclusion as a social determinant of health](#)
- [National Digital Inclusion Alliance State Digital Equity Plan Toolkit](#)
- [Digital Care in Epilepsy: A Conceptual Framework for Technological Therapies](#)
- **Stay, Safe, Side Seizure First Aid Campaign** - <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/seizure-first-aid-and-safety/first-aid-seizures-stay-safe-side>
- **Schools and Seizure Safety** - <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/schools-and-seizure-preparedness>  
<http://advocacy.epilepsy.com/seizuresafeschools>

## Reporting Requirements

There are grant reporting mechanisms and evaluation reports that are required to be submitted to the Epilepsy Foundation when funded. Grant management is required by your agency

If funded, you will be responsible for:

- Submission of Full Application in February 2023
- Submission of signed Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding
- Submission of detailed and signed invoices (if applicable)
- Submission of Final Project Report in August 2023
- Copy of agency IRS letter or certificate of nonprofit status (if applicable)
- Copy of W-9 to receive funds from Epilepsy Foundation (if applicable)

## Project Timeline

- January 2023: Announcement of Mini-Grant Opportunity
- February 1, 2023: LOIs Due (*Letters may be submitted before deadline*)
- February 6, 2023: Notification of Invitation to Orientation Meeting
- February 8, 2023: Mini-Grant Orientation Group Meeting (Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays @ 2 PM EST)
  - Mar 8, 2023
  - Apr 12, 2023
  - May 10, 2023
  - Jun 14, 2023
  - Jul 12, 2023
- March 1, 2023: Full Application Packet Due & Distribution of First \$5,000 (*Application may be submitted sooner*)
- February-August 2023: Grant Activity Period
- August 9, 2023: Project Success Webinar
- August 9-31, 2023: Final Report Submission Period & Distribution of Second \$5,000

## Submitting Your LOI

Your LOI should be addressed to Thometta Cozart, Multicultural Outreach and Health Equity Director and emailed by **Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM EST** to Thometta Cozart ([tcozart@efa.org](mailto:tcozart@efa.org)) to be considered for SDOH mini grant funds. Please contact Thometta Cozart before the deadline if you have any questions or need help identifying a potential partnership or collaboration.