



Multicultural Outreach Program, Epilepsy Foundation

2024 Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Mini-Grant Project

Year 3 SDOH Focus Area: Stigma, Discrimination, Racism, Legal Issues, Civic Injustices and Policing

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 discrimination, public safety, civic injustices, and policing. 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 1 NU58DP006965-03-00.

Collaborations between 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 legal services, disability rights, criminal justice, policing, law enforcement, and public safety are highly recommended for Year 3 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 Area Health Education Center Organization](#); and [National Rural Health Association](#). Local chapters or affiliates of these national organizations are also suitable partners for this funding opportunity: American Bar Association, National Disability Rights Networks, NAACP, Urban League, and Policing and Public Safety Orgs, such as the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) or the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Local multi-sector organizations, such as public health coalitions or collaborations, 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 be reviewed by members of the national team of the Epilepsy Foundation.

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 2024 SDOH mini grant project.

The chosen collaborations will be invited to participate in the **orientation meeting** scheduled for **2 pm EST on Wednesday, February 7, 2024**.

Proposed activities may include patient, professional, and public education, awareness, and media campaigns, trainings, and/or linkage and referral services. Existing EF resources, including Seizure First Aid and Law Enforcement Trainings, 24/7 Helpline, Legal Defense Fund, Seizure Dog Program, and racial and ethnic, minority and anti-stigma 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 opportunities to add epilepsy-related activities and resources.

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;
2. Explanation of collaboration between EF affiliate 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 or epilepsy health disparities. Experience serving diverse and multicultural communities;
4. Proposed activities to increase awareness of epilepsy among social agencies or multi-sector organization's members/clients and proposed activities to connect and/or link PWEs with social services, including legal and public safety resources. [Timeline for activities should include February to September 2024];
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:

- Sustained relationships between EF network and local social and public health services
- Increased number of PWEs from diverse communities connected to EF network and local services
- Increased number of social service and public health/ health education providers trained in SFA and knowledgeable of epilepsy disparities
- Increased number of law enforcement and public safety officers trained in seizure recognition and response through the new Law Enforcement-Informed instructor-led course
- Increased linkages and referrals of diverse PWEs to social and local services
- Decreased unmet social needs of PWE, especially people with epilepsy that have experienced stigma, discrimination, racism, legal issues, or civil injustices.

SDOH Year 3 CONSIDERATIONS

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

- How can you increase awareness of public safety resources, such as seizure dog programs, seizure alert devices, or epilepsy jewelry to those living with epilepsy who may not be aware of these resources?
- What types of resources for people with epilepsy who have experienced discrimination exist in your community?
- Would you consider engaging law enforcement, public safety and/or school resource officers for seizure recognition and response training?
- How will you link people living with epilepsy who may have been arrested or lost their jobs due to a seizure to legal services?
- How will you maintain your new partnerships with law enforcement agencies or criminal justice organizations?
- What type of organization level 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 ten 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 2024*), including planning activities.
 - Planning activities may include finalizing collaborations with partners, confirming training dates and securing necessary resources, such as event venues, etc.
- Patient education activities should utilize existing resources, such as referring to 24/7 national **Helpline** or **EFA Legal Defense Fund** or connecting them to public safety programs or resources. Grant funds may be used to pay for expert presenters or vouchers for epilepsy jewelry, etc. 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 law enforcement and criminal justice workforces are required to include **seizure first aid information** and/or **training, Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure course, Correctional Officers Seizure Training** video, and/or **Civil Rights and Epilepsy** videos.

- **Only trained instructors of the Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure course may implement the new Seizure Recognition and Response course for law enforcement officers.** Trainers are in the following states: Delaware, Maryland, Illinois, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Oregon, Ohio, Colorado, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Michigan, New York, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Texas. Agencies that need to be connected to a trainer in one of these states should contact the EFA Training Team at program@efa.org. Agencies outside of these states that want to engage law enforcement and public safety officers may establish relationships and promote the training but must direct interest to the national EFA Training Team via programs@efa.org.
- 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** and/or the **Anti-Stigma Campaign**. Existing campaign assets may be modified to feature local persons with epilepsy to pitch to local media.
- 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 outreach events.
- 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. Project funding may not be utilized for advocacy efforts.
- Grant funds cannot be used to develop new 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. Public awareness campaigns 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, Hispanic Communications ads or Anti-Stigma campaign. *EF Multicultural Outreach Program staff should be consulted prior to publishing newspaper, radio, or digital ads to ensure marketing and messaging is consistent.*

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

Patient Education Examples

- Adding public safety resources, such as Seizure Dog Program flyers or Legal Defense Fund flyers to waiting rooms at Epilepsy Centers, Neurology Departments, or emergency rooms.
- 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 that see a large population of minority patients

- Schedule and promote online training opportunities that enhance self-management or seizure first aid for patients' families
- Provide outreach to minorities 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 epilepsy patients, caregivers and/or their children by making and highlighting their 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 social service outreach activities and/or host activities at your organization to raise awareness of the connection between epilepsy and discrimination
- Engage law enforcement agencies or criminal justice organizations to establish partnerships to add their resources to your organization for future training or referrals
- 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 law enforcement officers and/or public safety officers at schools/colleges being required to know seizure first aid or seizure recognition and response course however, funds may **not** be used for direct lobbying.

Provider Education Examples

- Coordinate epilepsy disparities educational sessions or seizure first aid trainings online (with or without continuing education units) for health providers, including 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 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 National AHEC Organization to connect with rural health providers.

Professional Education Examples

- Coordinate Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure Recognition Course or Seizure First Aid training for law enforcement, correctional and public safety officers, or criminal justice workers, including defense attorneys, judges and/or others.
- Provide local health providers and public health officials with epilepsy public safety resources, such as Seizure Dog Program flyers or Legal Defense Fund flyers to display in their lobbies waiting rooms

- Promote epilepsy health education opportunities, such as Project ECHO, to providers through local chapters of medical and health-related associations, such as the National AHEC Organization or National Rural Health Assn to connect with rural health providers.

Important Reference Links

- **Stay, Safe, Side Seizure First Aid Campaign** - <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/seizure-first-aid-and-safety/first-aid-seizures-stay-safe-side>
- The **Helpline** provides specialized information & referral by actively responding to requests for assistance and information through various means and on platforms. Requests are handled on the Helpline 24/7/365. In addition to the Epilepsy Foundation mission, the Epilepsy & Seizures 24/7 Helpline's mission is to connect people with epilepsy, their families, and caregivers to information resources and services nationwide. Our vision is to provide help, hope, and support for people affected by seizures and the epilepsies. The Helpline provides information on medication, treatment options, support groups, financial programs, seizure first aid and safety, employment, discrimination, and legal issues, Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), and sends out free information packets. For more information, call 1-800-332-1000, en Español 1-866-748-8008, or visit us online at <https://www.epilepsy.com/helpline>. Interpreters are available for over 200 languages.
- We established the **Jeanne A. Carpenter Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund** to help people with epilepsy get the legal help they need. Our goal is to end epilepsy-related discrimination through public education and access to legal services. The fund has several priorities, including:
 - Employment laws
 - School and education (Disabilities Education Act)
 - Public accommodations (camps, childcare facilities, stores, hotels, theaters, fitness clubs)
 - Programs and services (police and first responder training)
 - Housing
 - Health insurance
 - Criminal justice concerns
 - Here are links to civil rights and epilepsy videos:
 - **Arrested with Epilepsy:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr4pDoXXzQQ>
 - **Fired due to Epilepsy:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTgG1G78DFI>
- **Culture of Police/Law Enforcement Trainings** - https://thegrio.com/2023/12/07/after-talking-about-black-man-cops-showed-picture-of-ape-at-training-seminar-state-says/?utm_campaign=later-linkinbio-thegrio&utm_content=later-39719967&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkin.bio

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 2024
- Submission of signed Memorandums of Agreement
- Submission of detailed and signed invoices
- Submission of Final Project Report in September 2024
- Copy of agency IRS letter or certificate of nonprofit status
- Copy of W-9 to receive funds from Epilepsy Foundation

Project Timeline

- December 2023: Announcement of Mini-Grant Opportunity as part of CDC CA Announcement to Network & Partners
- January 2024: LOI and Partnership Preparation Period
- January 22, 2024: LOIs Due (Rolling deadline)
- January 30, 2024: Mini-Grantee Notification Period
- February 7, 2024: Mini-Grant Orientation Group Meeting
- February 28, 2024: First TA Meeting (Monthly meetings on 4th Wednesdays @ 2 PM EST)
- March 1, 2024: Full Application Packet Due & Distribution of First \$5,000
- March 1- September 5, 2024: Grant Activity Period
- September 11, 2024: Project Success Webinar (2 – 4 PM EST)
- September 12-27, 2024: Grant Reporting 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 on **Monday, January 22nd** to Thometta Cozart (tcozart@efa.org). Letters will be reviewed on a rolling basis until final decision is made regarding grant funds. Please contact Thometta Cozart before the deadline if you have any questions.