☑ SOUTH LA DECIDES

Community Change Fund Initiative

2021 Request for Proposals

*Proposal Submission Deadline: March 19, 2021 5:00PM PST *

- ENGLISH VERSION -
Spanish Version to Be Posted By 3/6/21
La versión en español se publicará el 3/6/21

first 5 la
— BEST START —

CHC Community Health Councils

best start Region 2

ABOUT BEST START REGION 2

Best Start is funded by First 5 LA and is their primary investment for engaging communities in a common vision and intention for children and families to thrive, working to strengthen community leadership and collaboration across sectors. Best Start is a promise that every child in Los Angeles County enters kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

Progress toward this North Star, however, requires more than publicly funded, professionally delivered services. An overwhelming body of evidence supports the idea that children thrive, and families flourish in strong, safe, healthy, and engaged communities where people develop strong and lasting relationships, support each other, and act together to give children the best start possible.

Through Best Start, First 5 LA invests in 14 geographic areas that have faced historic disenfranchisement and oppression through political, economic, social and environmental factors that aggravate chronic family stressors such as violence and poverty.

This solicitation covers Best Start Region 2, which encompasses Best Start Broadway / Manchester (BSBWM), Best Start Compton / East Compton (BSCEC), Best Start Watts and Willowbrook (BSWW), and Best Start West Athens (BSWA). Since 2018, Community Health Councils (CHC) has been serving as the Region 2 Network Grantee to advance policy and systems-change across the region in partnership with other organizations and resident leaders.

Best Start Region 2: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

Best Start Region 2, a partnership funded by First 5 LA and stewarded by Community Health Councils, with leading community-based partners, Girls Club of Los Angeles, Poder Consulting Group, and Coachman Moore & Associates, is committed to advancing the practices of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion to achieve sustainable policy and systems-change across the South Los Angeles region.

Best Start Region 2, and any associated members or leaders will embrace this commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion by welcoming all community members regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, national origin, veteran status, social-economic class, religion or any other perceived difference. It is important for this to be a shared mutual commitment as we strive for the common goal of creating positive outcomes that benefit families and children.

Our experience demonstrates that bringing people together from various backgrounds and cultures drives solutions by leveraging different points of view. Respecting everyone's background, culture, and life experiences are essential to collective agency and power in advancing policy and systems change.

ABOUT SOUTH LA DECIDES

South LA Decides is how Best Start Region 2 will expand grant making decisions to the residents of South LA and Compton. This Community-Based Grant Making initiative builds on the successful work that each Best Start community in Region 2 has achieved. This initiative will ensure that residents of Region 2 are able to participate in the decision-making process to distribute funding to organizations working to increase the health and well-being of children aged prenatal – 5 living in South LA and Compton.

ABOUT COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS

Community Health Councils (CHC) is a policy and systems change organization with the mission to "Collectively Build Equitable Systems" towards our vision of better communities for all people. Established in 1992, CHC has worked collaboratively with stakeholders to transform communities.

SOUTH LA DECIDES - COMMUNITY CHANGE FUND INITIATIVE

This funding will support the planning and implementation of projects focused on identifying and taking strategic actions to create policy solutions and/or improve systems of services around Employment & Fair Wages, Early Childhood Education and Food Insecurity to improve the lives of children prenatal - 5 and their families.

Project examples:

- Creating new agreements and processes between local clinics to provide enhanced services pregnant mothers.
- Working with City Council to create policies that use existing resources (vacant homes, motels, etc.) to provide housing for homeless families.
- Working with school districts to ensure every child receives school lunch regardless of ability to pay.
- Working with City Council to pass policies that reduce the unemployment rate for young men 18-30yo.
- Working with telecommunication providers to make Internet connectivity more affordable or free for families.
- Bringing together multiple local health programs to improve and align their services helping them to create a system that provides better maternity care.
- Working with local restaurants to offer more healthier, yet affordable food on their menus.

Funds from the Community Change Fund Initiative will not be used to fund capital projects, or capital improvement projects.

A total of up to $800,000 will be awarded. Awards will be made for a 12-month period (anticipated: May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022).

Work under this program must take place in one or more of the 4 Best Start Region 2 geographies. Funds awarded are intended to support work on priority issues (see page 4) that benefit residents and stakeholders of Best Start Region 2 and are not for individual or personal use.

CHC encourages applications from a spectrum of organizations, community groups and/or coalitions.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for a grant under this Request for Proposals, applicants for both award categories must meet the following criteria:

1. **Applicant must be a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.** Organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) are eligible. Coalitions are eligible as long as the lead applicant organization meets all other eligibility criteria.
   - Organizations classified as private foundations under Section 509(a) are <u>not</u> eligible.
   - Government agencies are <u>not</u> eligible.
   - Universities or academic institutions are <u>not</u> eligible to be the lead applicant; however, they may serve as a coalition partner to the lead applicant.
2. Must have previously conducted worked with one or more of the Best Start Region 2 communities (called Local Councils, formerly known as Community Partnerships).
3. Must reside or be headquartered within the Region 2 geographic area.

Applicants must have staff available to work on this project who are based in LA County. The proposed effort must take place within one or more of the 4 Best Start Region 2 geographies. Failure to meet all eligibility criteria will render a proposal ineligible.

Questions and requests for additional information should be submitted in writing to Ada Mbogu, Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives at ambogu@chc-inc.org no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2021 by 5:00pm.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

March 5, 2021 at 8:00PM PST	Request for Proposals (RFP's) for Community Identified Issues released.
March 10, 2021 5:00PM	**Questions and Requests for Additional Information Due**
March 12, 2021 1:00PM to 2:00PM	**Bidders/Applicants Q&A Webinar**
March 19, 2021 5:00PM PST	**Full Proposals Due**
March 25, 2021 – April 7, 2021	South LA Decides Voting on Top Project Proposals
April 9, 2021	**Final Funding Decisions Announced**

PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUNDING:

1. **EMPLOYMENT & FAIR WAGES**: Decades of job losses and low-income jobs keep South LA residents from having the opportunity and financial resources to support their families.
   - *Example Proposals: addressing unemployment, increasing the minimum wage.*

2. **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** Quality affordable early childhood education is critical to prepare children to be successful and productive adults. Unfortunately, children from low-income communities like South LA continue to suffer from lack of quality and accessible education opportunities.
   - *Examples: increasing preschool access, advocating for more resources in our schools.*

3. **FOOD INSECURITY:** Many residents of South LA have to travel beyond their communities to access fresh fruits and vegetables, and struggle to maintain a healthy diet for their families, impacting their overall health.
   - *Examples: increasing access to affordable and healthy food, as well as opportunities to create local food economies*

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are encouraged to participate in an informational webinar at 1:00pm on Friday, March 12, 2021 (or listen to the recorded version) to learn more about this RFP. Please register for the webinar at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErduCtpzMrEtGPTurfHCq6ssfEg__i5-Qw. After registering, you will receive an email confirmation with information on how to join the webinar. A recording of the webinar will be made available on the Best Start Communities webpage on Saturday, March 13, 2021, and an updated Frequently Asked Questions document will be posted by Monday, March 15, 2021: https://www.beststartcommunities.com/about-us.

There are <u>two ways</u> to apply for this grant opportunity:
1. Prepare a written application to submit via email or in-person drop off.
2. Compose a video and upload it to YouTube!

<u>**Written Application Instructions**</u>
Written applications may be submitted in any language.

Typed applications should include:
A. A cover page (one-page maximum) listing the following information:
- Name of applicant organization/group
- Mailing address, phone number and email address, and website of applicant organization/group
- Social media handles: Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter
- Name, title and contact information of organization/group President/Director/Chief Executive Officer
- Name, title and contact information of project lead
- The grant category for which the applicant is applying:
- Project Title
- Amount Requested $_____

B. Narrative response to application questions (can be found starting on page 6 of the RFP)
- Responses should be submitted in Microsoft Word doc. ONLY (no PDFs, PowerPoint, or other format)
- Please include the following section headers throughout your response:
  - Project Title
  - Project Summary
  - About Our Organization
  - Our Experience
  - Our Project
  - Our Measurable Outcomes
  - Our Evaluation Plan
  - Our Budget (optional)
  - Our Video YouTube link (optional)

Video Application Instructions

Submit a video that captures your project and describes why it should be funded. The video is an opportunity to showcase your passion and to pitch your story in a succinct format. We want you to share your vision with the expert reviewers in a way that is different from the written proposal format. This DOES NOT need to be a professionally produced video; video filmed on a smartphone is acceptable and encouraged.

Your video will be made available to the public. Appeal to a broad audience. Video submissions should follow these guidelines or else it will render the Entry ineligible:

- A length of no more than 30 minutes.
- Videos may be created in any language.
- Your video must be captioned to ensure it is accessible for all reviewers. See instructions here on how to caption YouTube videos.
- Your video should not contain any images of identifiable children (under age 18) without written parental consent.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

- Introduce yourself and your organization(s) and/or team.
- Describe the problem that you are committed to solving.
- Explain your solution.
- Explain what is unique about your solution.
- Describe how you would plan to measure success and achieve broad but meaningful impact.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

PROJECT TITLE (10 words max)

Provide the title of your project. Choose a name that easily identifies your solution and distinguishes it from any other project.

PROJECT SUMMARY (150 max)

Write a one-paragraph overview of your project that answers the following three questions:
- What is a brief description of the issue you are trying to address?
- How will you address the issue, and who will benefit?
- What are your anticipated results?

Your summary should be a stand-alone statement of the problem and solution. It should not require any other information to clearly understand what you are seeking to accomplish.

Select the community priority your project will address (choose one)
A. Employment & Fair Wages
B. Early Childhood Education
C. Food Insecurity

Outline the reason for choosing this community priority.

ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

In this section, please provide detailed information about the applicant.

Name, mission and vision statement for your organization.

Applicant Tax Identification Number - Please provide any identification number provided by the Applicant's taxing authority (e.g., the Internal Revenue Service).

Project Staffing - Please include the name, title, a brief bio and short description of duties for all staff that will work on this project.

Organizational Demographics - We are interested in learning more about the diversity of the leadership, staff, and board of the lead organization of your project. Please enter the total number of individuals within your organization for each race/ethnicity, using the category that best describes them.

Position	Latino	Black	Asian and/or Pacific Islander	White	Other (e.g., mixed 2 or more races)	Gender: #Man, #Woman # Non-binary
Board of Directors						
Leadership/ Management Staff						
Staff						

ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

Knowledge of Community Issues - Describe your organization's experience working on the community knowledge of the identified community issues. (200 words max)

Experience with Diverse Communities - Describe your organization's familiarity working with diverse communities in South LA. (200 words max)

Policy and Systems Change Experience and Success - Explain how your organization has advanced policy and/or systems change in communities of South LA or similar communities. Provide specific examples/ supporting evidence (e.g., reports, news articles, actual text of policies, etc. (200 words max)

YOUR PROJECT

What is your Project? - Describe the policy and/or systems change impact your project will have for communities in South LA. (500 words max)

Project Partners - Describe what community partners this project will have, if any, and what they will work on as part of this project. (150 words max)

Community Involvement - Describe how you will involve community input during project implementation. (200 words max)

Community Input in Project Design - Describe how community input was involved in the design of your project and/or creation of this application/proposal. (150 words max)

Combatting Anti-Blackness and Racism - Describe how you will integrate methods to combat anti-blackness and promote anti-racism through throughout your work on this project. (150 words max)

YOUR MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Clear and Achievable Outcomes - Provide a timeline with specific, measurable outcomes for your project. Measurable outcomes should describe in concrete words what you hope to achieve by the end of the project. These outcomes should directly reflect the community priority your project addresses and should be described in SMART goal format. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based. (400 words max)

YOUR EVALUATION PLAN

Metrics – Describe the key metrics you will tract to evaluate the success of your project. These metrics should directly reflect your measurable outcomes and the project activities. (200 words max)

Data Collection Methods – Describe the methods you will use to track key metrics and who will be responsible for managing data collection. Please be specific and include details of the frequency of data collection. In addition, please describe any adaptation of traditional data collection methods to accommodate COVID-19 public health orders and ensure safety of community, partners and participants. (200 words max)

Analysis & Reporting - Describe your approach to analyzing and reporting results of data collection, and who will be leading the analysis process. Please include details about the frequency of formatting of reports, as well as how you will approach language justice and transparency around evaluation results. (200 words max)

Community Participation - Describe how you will involve Best Start communities in the evaluation process and provide opportunities for training and community input and partnership for data collection, analysis and reporting. (200 words max)

BUDGET REQUEST

Please specify the general amount of funding your organization is requesting to conduct this project: $_____

YOUR BUDGET (Optional)

Applicants may submit a line-item budget that clearly outlines the categories outlines your anticipated project costs (e.g., staff salaries, printing and supplies, translation and interpretation services, etc.) If submitting a line-item budget, please use the provided budget template.

YOUR VIDEO YOUTUBE LINK (optional)

If you have elected to create and submit a video proposal, please provide the link to the online location of your video here: _____

ATTACHMENTS

In addition, applicants must prepare and submit each of the following:
- Three references who can attest to your group/organization's ability to fulfill the proposed outcomes.
- Letters of Support from proposed project partner(s).

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

- **Attachment A: Line-Item Budget** - Applicants may submit a line-item budget that outlines your anticipated project costs (e.g., staff salaries, printing and supplies, translation and interpretation services, etc.) If submitting a line-item budget, please use the provided budget template, and consider also submitting a Budget Narrative that provides a description of each line item and a breakdown of the calculations.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

You may submit an application in any of the following ways:

For written responses:

1. **Email** your completed application to ambogu@chc-inc.org by the submission deadline.
   Include: *"Region 2 Community Change Fund Proposal"* in the Subject line.

2. **Drop off** a paper/hard copy of your application to:
   Community Health Councils
   3731 Stocker St., Suite 201 (2nd floor)
   Los Angeles, CA 90008
   Please mark your envelope *"Attn: Ada Mbogu"*

For video responses:

Upload your video to YouTube. Set the Privacy Settings on your video to Public or Unlisted – do not set them to Private. Compose an email with the following information in the body of the email, and send to ambogu@chc-inc.org by the submission deadline:

- Name of applicant organization/group:
- Mailing address, phone number and email address, and website of applicant organization/group:
- Organization's social media handles: Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter
- Name, title and contact information of organization President/Director/Chief Executive Officer:
- Name, title and contact information of project lead:
- The grant category for which the applicant is applying: _____
- Project Tile:
- Amount Requested: $_____