Community Voices for Health

Webinar on the Call for Proposals

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For more than 45 years, the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** has worked to improve health and health care. We are working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. www.rwjf.org

Public Agenda is a nonprofit organization that helps diverse leaders and citizens navigate divisive, complex issues. Through nonpartisan research and engagement, it provides people with the insights and support they need to arrive at workable solutions on critical issues, regardless of their differences. www.publicagenda.org

Altarum is a nonprofit research and consulting organization that creates and implements solutions to advance health among vulnerable and publicly insured populations. www.altarum.org
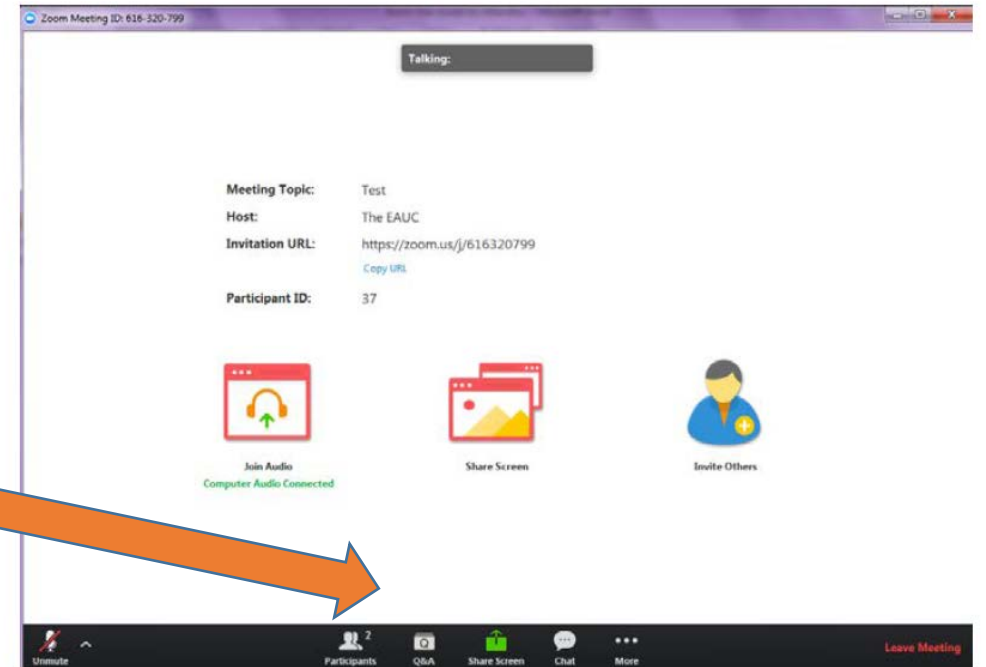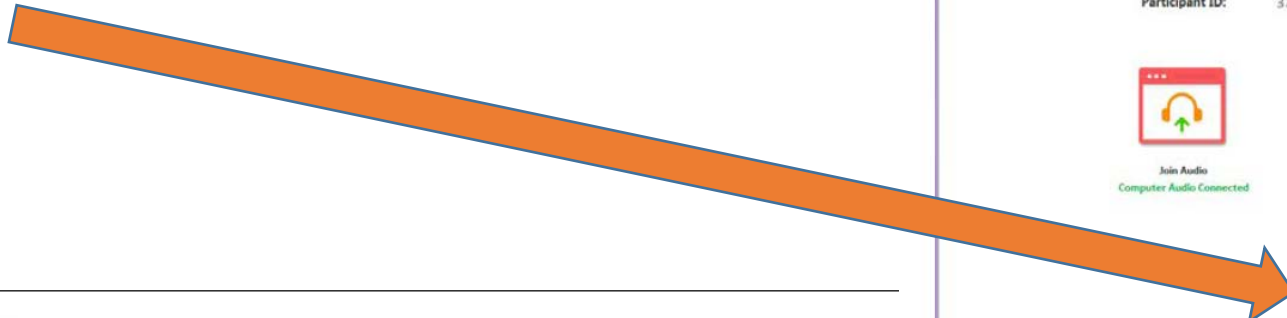
Agenda

Welcome

Overview: project goal, components, eligibility, timeline

What we are looking for in the proposals

Technical assistance available

Q&A

Project goal

Build stronger engagement infrastructure that involves a broad range of people, especially marginalized and underserved communities – so their voices are heard in health policy decisions, their efforts to solve problems are supported, and their community networks are strengthened.

Photo source: Pennsylvania Health Access Network

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WE'RE NOT STARTING FROM SCRATCH

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD UP TO BIG CHANGES

Components of the project

Make engagement infrastructure more:

- ***Inclusive and sustained***, by expanding engagement techniques and involving previously marginalized communities

- ***Informed***, through community-engaged research

- ***Influential***, by ensuring strong pathways between community members and policymakers.

About the grants

- Up to six grants will be awarded, no more than one per state.
- Organizations in the following states are eligible to apply: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.
- Up to $660,000 per project for up to 30 months
- Grantees will also receive technical assistance from Public Agenda and Altarum

Who is eligible?

- Lead organizations should be public charities that are community-based organizations or statewide networks, such as consumer advocacy networks, organizations serving recent immigrants, affordable housing advocates, or civic engagement organizations.

- Lead organizations are encouraged to partner with other stakeholders, such as public agencies, health care systems, public health departments and leaders, researchers, university-based centers, membership associations, social service providers, and many others.

Organizations in 20 states are eligible
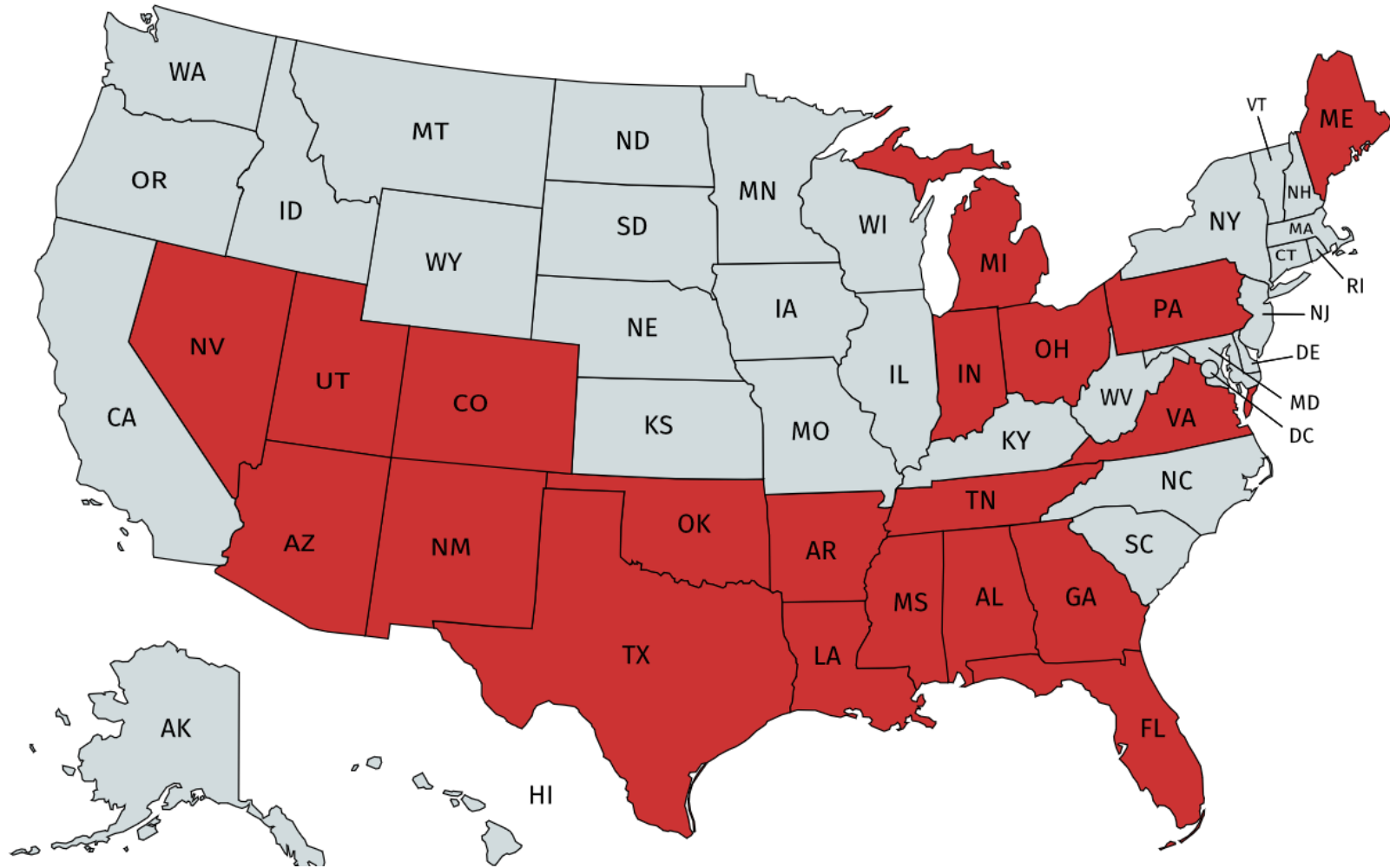
Project timeline

- **October 7, 2019 (3 pm ET)** Deadline for receipt of full proposals

- **Early December, 2019** Applicants notified of grant decisions

- **January 15, 2020** Grants and projects begin

[30 months]

- **June 30, 2022** Grants and projects end

What are we looking for in the proposals?

See box on p. 5 of the CFP

- Sound plan
- Partnerships
- Marginalized communities
- Commitment to equity and inclusion
- Capacity to engage
- Community-engaged research
- Policymaking connections
- Other resources

Options to consider for proposals

- ***Scale*** – statewide in scope or local and scalable?

- ***Issue*** – start with single issue or range of issues? (if single issue, how to expand over time?)

Resources to help you develop proposals

Go to www.communityvoicesforhealth.org to find:	
Community Voices for Health planning framework	Guide that lays out options and steps for building stronger engagement infrastructure, including strategies for marginalized communities
Resources on community-engaged research	Guidance, examples, posters that illustrate skills and products of community-engaged research
Pennsylvania engagement scan	Research describing the existing engagement assets and gaps in the state
Policy explainers – Pennsylvania	Research to understand and explain what is happening on key health policy proposals in the state

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What might this look like?

See box on p. 2 of the CFP for an example that:

- Starts with a focus on mental health

- Engages marginalized communities

- Engages through meals, texting

- Connects with policymakers

Photo sources: www.creatingcommunitysolutions.org/texttalkact;
Janette Hartz-Karp; http://trythiswv.com/have-a-community-
conversation/

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Community-engaged research

Community-engaged research is a collaborative process between researchers and community members that creates and disseminates knowledge, and creative expression, with the goal of contributing to the well-being of the community. Also known as ***community-based, participatory research.***

Why: working with a research partner(s) will increase understanding of community experiences with the health system, further raise the profile of the communities efforts, and support evidence-based policymaking.

What might this look like?

See p. 3 of the CFP for an example that:

- Engages high school students

- Uses "walk audits" and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Brings residents, decision-makers together

- Produces multimedia report

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Source: Community Care of Brooklyn, People-Focused Research: Participatory Action Research in Canarsie, Flatlands, and Flatbush (Summer 2018).

Working with policymakers

Creating stronger connections through:

- Ongoing engagement that is connected, input is aggregated

- Opportunities for policymakers to ask questions, propose issues

- Activities: policy breakfasts, deliberative forums

Photo source: Nancy Thomas

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Technical assistance to support the projects

Make engagement infrastructure more:

- *Inclusive and sustained –* engagement scans, other resources, technical assistance from Public Agenda

- *Informed –* resources and technical assistance on community-engaged research from Altarum

- *Influential –* techniques for connecting, aggregating engagement, activities for policymakers, from both groups

Engagement matters for the health of:

Individuals: Our health depends on how well we are connected to one another

Communities: Public health can be improved when people work together to solve problems

States: By giving people a stronger, more informed voice in health policy decisions, our health care, social service, and public health systems will be more likely to benefit the people they are intended to serve

Photo source: https://www.tcdailyplanet.net/jane-adams-school-democracy-flourishes-st-paul/

Questions

- We'll start with some questions we received by email before the webinar; to ask a new question, use the Q&A function

- Recording of the webinar will be available tomorrow at www.communityvoicesforhealth.org and www.rwjf.org/cfp/CVH

- All answers to these questions and others we receive by email will be documented on the FAQs, available at www.rwjf.org/cfp/CVH

More information

- www.communityvoicesforhealth.org

- www.rwjf.org/cfp/CVH

- To ask questions after the webinar, email voices4healthcfp@publicagenda.org or call Jennifer Orellana at 212-686-6610, ext. 150

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