



Wyoming Department of Health

Funding Opportunity Announcement:

Health and Human Services (HHS) Innovation Grant
(DO-22-001)

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Table of Contents

1. Overview Information	2
2. Full Text of the Announcement	4
A. Funding Opportunity Description	4
B. Award Information	5
C. Eligibility Information	5
D. Application and Submission Information	5
E. Application Review and Selection Information	7
F. Award Administration Information	7
G. Agency Contacts	7
H. Right to Amend or Withdraw	7

1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	Wyoming Department of Health (WDH)
Components of Participating Organization(s)	WDH, Director's Office
Funding Opportunity Title	Health and Human Services (HHS) Innovation Grant
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number	DO-22-001
Announcement Type	New
Number of Applicants	No limit
Funding Opportunity Purpose	<p>The WDH's mission is to promote, protect, and enhance the health of all Wyoming citizens.</p> <p>In 2022, the Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$5,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct funds to the WDH for the HHS Innovation Fund. This appropriation is "for purposes of providing grants for health and human services innovations in rural health care, long-term care, provision of human services, community behavioral health, mental health and health information technology and digital medical innovation."</p> <p>This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications to receive grants from the HHS Innovation Fund.</p> <p>Applications should propose research projects that test promising innovations for health and human services in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural health care; 2. Long-term care; 3. Provision of human services; 4. Community behavioral health; 5. Mental health; and 6. Health information technology and digital medical innovation. <p>These six priorities are referred to as the "HHS Innovation Areas."</p>

	<p>The WDH will award grants of up to \$625,000 each from the HHS Innovation Fund. Applications will be reviewed and scored by an advisory committee. Awardees will be selected amongst the highest-scoring applications. The final award amounts and count of awards will be subject to the Director’s discretion. At all times, the WDH reserves the discretion to award zero (0) grants.</p> <p>All grants awarded under this FOA are subject to the terms and conditions imposed upon the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program under ARPA.</p> <p>Before applying, applicants are encouraged to consult the SLFRF final rule at 35 C.F.R. Part 35 (link here), as well as guidance issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (link here). Each applicant will be required to establish how their project qualifies as an eligible use of SLFRF funds.</p>
Key Dates	
Posted Date	June 6, 2022
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)	July 1, 2022
Application Due Date (Last Submission Date)	September 1, 2022
Advisory Committee Review	Generally, two months after receipt date
Earliest Start Date	Generally, two months after advisory council review date and subject to state contracting and vendor management requirements
Expiration Date	December 31, 2026

2. Full Text Announcement

A. Funding Opportunity Description

i. Purpose

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications for research projects that test health and human services (HHS) innovations for Wyoming in rural health care, long-term care, provision of human services, community behavioral health, mental health, and health information technology and digital medical innovation.

Awardees will receive funding for approved projects up to December 31, 2026.

ii. Background

The healthcare ecosystem is rapidly changing, nationally and in Wyoming. These changes have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. In order to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country.

The SLFRF program ensures that governments have the resources needed to:

- Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts.
- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue.
- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.

During the 2022 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature, the Legislature appropriated funds from the SLFRF Program directly to state agencies for various purposes. *See* 2022 Wyo. Sess. Laws 109 (ch. 50). The Legislature refers to these funds as American Rescue Plan Direct (ARPD) appropriations.

This FOA regards the \$5,000,000 ARPD appropriation to the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) for the HHS Innovation Fund. *See* 2022 Wyo. Sess. Laws 109, 110 (ch. 50, § 2). The Legislature directed:

This appropriation to the department of health is for purposes of providing grants for health and human services innovations in rural health care, long-term care, provision of human services, community behavioral health, mental health and health information technology and digital medical innovation.

2022 Wyo. Sess. Laws 109, 112 (ch. 50, § 2, fn. 7). Accordingly, the WDH has created the HHS Innovation Grant Program, as represented through this FOA.

iii. Objective and Scope

The objective of this FOA is to fund innovations in health and human services in six areas of focus (HHS Innovation Areas):

1. Rural health care;

2. Long-term care;
3. Provision of human services;
4. Community behavioral health;
5. Mental health;
6. Health information technology and digital medical innovation.

As a result, projects under this FOA should satisfy three elements:

- First, the project must “innovate.” This means the project should introduce or make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods or ideas.
- Second, the project must pertain to health and human services (HHS). This means the project should seek to enhance the health and well-being of Wyoming residents by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.
- And finally, the project must prioritize one of the six HHS Innovation Areas. It is acceptable for applicants to propose a project that impacts more than one area, however, the project should have a clear focus on one.

In addition to the conditions imposed by the Legislature, projects under this FOA are limited by federal law. The \$5,000,000 available through the HHS Innovation Fund are funded by the SLFRF Program. The U.S. Treasury has adopted a final rule controlling the use of these funds under 31 C.F.R. Part 35. Each application will need to expressly establish how the proposed project is permitted to be funded under the final rule.

B. Award Information

Funding Instrument	Monetary grant: a support mechanism providing money to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity
Anticipated Number of Awards and Funds Available	Eight awards of up to \$650,000 each are available out of the \$5,000,000 HHS Innovation Fund. As noted in this FOA, the WDH reserves the right to award zero (0) grants and expend zero (0) dollars.
Award Budget	Funds may be used only for those expenses that are directly related and necessary to the project and must be expended in compliance with 31 C.F.R. Part 35.
Award Project Period	The duration of the entire award may not exceed beyond December 31, 2026. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.

C. Eligibility Information

Any entity legally-authorized to operate in Wyoming is eligible to apply.

D. Application and Submission Information

There is no application form or template. However, an application must include all of the following elements:

1. Cover Page
 - a. Identify or name the entity submitting the application.
 - b. Provide a brief description of the research project proposal, in no more than three to five sentences.
 - c. Identify a point of contact for the application, including name, position/title, address, phone number, and email address.
2. Entity Information
 - a. Provide the entity's mission statement.
 - b. Provide a brief history of the entity.
 - c. Describe the entity's current programs and activities.
 - d. Describe a few top accomplishments of the entity within the last three years.
 - e. Provide the entity's IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN).
 - f. Provide a Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State.
 - g. List the Board of Directors, or other relevant leadership.
3. Research Project Proposal
 - a. Describe the research project, answering the following questions:
 - i. How does the research project "innovate," meaning to introduce or make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods or ideas?
 - ii. How does the research project pertain to health and human services, seeking to enhance the health and well-being of Wyoming residents by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services?
 - iii. How does the research project prioritize one of the six HHS Innovation Areas?
 - b. Describe how the research project is eligible under the SLFRF Program. This description must include the following elements:
 - i. An analysis of how the project is permitted under the relevant U.S. Treasury regulations, located at 31 C.F.R. Part 35.
 - ii. Cite(s) to the specific provision under the relevant U.S. Treasury regulations, located at 31 C.F.R. Part 35, applied above (e.g. "31 C.F.R. § 35.6(b)(3)(ii)(11)(i)").
 - c. Describe how the innovation underlying the research project is scalable and can be adopted by others.
 - d. Describe the Wyoming population(s) impacted by the research project and underlying innovation.
 - e. Describe all participants, users, clients, and other Wyoming residents who will be involved in or impacted by the research project.
 - f. Describe any partners in the research project, including the partner's role and the relationship with them.
 - g. Identify the staff and leadership who will be involved in the research project and provide their resume(s).
 - h. Provide a detailed timeline of the research project that shows major milestones.
 - i. Describe the budget for the research project, including funding sources, allocations, and any relevant restrictions on the use of funds – outside of the SLFRF program. Attach supporting documentation as appropriate.
 - j. Describe the plan for the financial sustainability of the research project or underlying innovation after the grant award has been exhausted.
4. Evaluation Information
 - a. Describe the desired outcomes and how these will be measured over time.
 - b. Describe the evaluation design, including the data collection and statistical methodologies that might be employed to estimate effects.

Applicants are encouraged to format their applications in a manner that reflects the enumerated elements above. For example, the application should provide the entity's IRS EIN under section or paragraph "2.e," or a reasonable alternative. This will assist the review to ensure the application is complete. Please be advised if an application is not well-organized, does not clearly address all of the enumerated elements above, or is otherwise of a lower quality, the application may receive a lower score compared to other submissions.

Each application must be submitted to the WDH via email at wdh.hhs.innovation@wyo.gov. Applications may be submitted no later than Thursday, September 1, 2022.

E. Application Review & Selection Information

Each application will be reviewed and scored by an advisory committee established by the WDH. This committee may include members outside of the WDH, including community and HHS stakeholders. The scoring of applications will be based on a rubric that accounts for how well the application satisfies the elements established under this FOA.

The Director will review the highest-scoring applications and independently select awardees based upon the purpose and objectives of the SLFRF Program and the HHS Innovation Fund. Since the WDH must be a responsible steward of taxpayer funds, the Director reserves the right to not award any grants, in the event the Director determines there are insufficient applications of merit.

F. Award Administration Information

All grants awarded under this FOA are subject to the terms and conditions imposed upon the SLFRF Program. All grants are also subject to State of Wyoming contracting and vendor management requirements.

G. Agency Contacts

Questions regarding this FOA may be submitted to wdh.hhs.innovation@wyo.gov.

H. Right to Amend or Withdraw

At all times, the WDH reserves the right to amend or withdraw this FOA. In the event the WDH substantially changes application criteria and an applicant has already submitted an application, the WDH will provide the applicant notice of the change and an opportunity to supplement the application, as necessary.