



Wyoming  
Department  
of Health

Funding Opportunity Announcement

Wyoming Department of Health  
Public Health Division

COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant  
CDC-RFA-OT21-2103

# Funding Opportunity Announcement:

## COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

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## 1. Overview Information

<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>	Wyoming Department of Health (WDH)
<b>Components of Participating Organization(s)</b>	WDH, Public Health Division, Office of Performance Improvement and Health Equity (OPIHE)
<b>Funding Opportunity Title</b>	COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant
<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number</b>	CDC-RFA-OT21-2103
<b>Announcement Type</b>	New
<b>Number of Applicants</b>	No limit on the number of applicants. Awards will be subject to the availability of funding, \$2,267,631.
<b>Funding Opportunity Purpose</b>	<p>The WDH mission is to promote, protect, and enhance the health of all Wyoming residents.</p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS) has awarded funding through May 31, 2023. This non-research grant is funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. This groundbreaking funding represents CDC’s largest investment to date focusing specifically on reducing health disparities related to COVID-19 and will provide much needed support to directly address these issues in communities that need it most.</p>

<b>Key information</b>	<p>This funding opportunity is for the purpose of assisting rural, critical access hospitals with updating electronic health records (EHRs) to improve access to health records for Wyomingites. To be eligible for funding, all applications must be submitted to WDH no later than December 12, 2022. WDH determinations will be made within a reasonable amount of time after the application period closes. 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 WDH Senior Administrator’s discretion. At all times, the WDH reserves the discretion to award zero (0) grants or to re-release the RFA. All grantees approved to receive a funding award will be required to enter into a contract with the Department of Health, Public Health Division for the reimbursement of costs associated with the award.</p>
<b>Posted Date</b>	November 10, 2022

<b>Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)</b>	November 10, 2022
<b>Application Due Date (Last Submission Date)</b>	December 12, 2022
<b>Expiration Date</b>	May 31, 2023. Grant funds must be expended by this date.

## 2. Full Text Announcement

### A. Funding Opportunity Description

#### i. Purpose

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications from health care clinics or hospitals for projects to update existing EHRs. These upgrades shall include interoperability with the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR); plans to ensure access to patient data during the migration, including COVID-19 vaccine and testing data; connectivity to the Health Information Exchange (HIE); and connectivity to the Wyoming Frontier Information (WYFI) to ensure appropriate patient health information transmittal.

Awardees will receive funding for approved projects up to May 31, 2023.

#### ii. Background

Healthcare needs are rapidly changing, including technology needs, both nationally and in Wyoming. This includes EHR systems and the need to maintain patient access to records, especially COVID-19 testing and vaccine records. In order to continue to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 was awarded to states, delivering 2.25 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country.

This program ensures that governments have the resources needed to address health disparities, including addressing infrastructure needs in Wyoming. This FOA regards an allocation of \$2,267,631 by the Wyoming Department of Health for EHR updates.

#### iii. Objective, Scope and Strategies

The intended outcomes are to:

- a. Reduce COVID-19-related health disparities
- b. Increase patient access to COVID-19 testing and vaccine data
- c. Increase clinic or hospital interoperability with the WyIR, HIE, and WYFI
- d. Improve clinic or hospital EHR systems
- e. Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- f. Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved

### B. Award Information

<b>Funding Instrument</b>	Monetary grant: a support mechanism providing money to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity.
<b>Award Prioritization</b>	Awards will be prioritized to those applicants who provide evidence of all the above requirements.
<b>Award Budget</b>	Funds may be used only for those expenses that are directly related and necessary to the project.
<b>Award Project Period</b>	The duration of the entire award may not extend beyond May 31, 2023. All funds must be spent by May 31, 2023.

**C. Eligibility Information**

Any health care entity in good standing with the Wyoming Secretary of State’s Office is eligible to apply.

**D. [Google Form Application](#) and Submission Information**

Applicants may apply for funding by completing the online [COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant \(CDC-RFA-OT21-2103\) Funding Opportunity Announcement Application](#). The application includes the following elements:

1. Entity Information
  - a. Name of clinic or hospital
  - b. Address of clinic or hospital
  - c. Name of Point of Contract (POC)
  - d. Position/Title of POC
  - e. Email address of POC
  - f. Phone number of POC
  - g. Provide a brief history of the entity
  - h. Provide the entity’s IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN).
  - i. Is the entity in a special hospital district or other distinct legal filing?.
2. Project/Activity Proposal
  - a. How does the program reduce health disparities?
  - b. Will the project/activity help increase patient access to COVID-19 testing and vaccine data?
  - c. Will the project/activity help increase clinic or hospital interoperability with the WyIR, HIE, and WYFI?
  - d. Will the project/activity help improve clinic or hospital EHR systems?
  - e. Improve clinic or hospital EHR systems.
  - f. How will the project/activity increase or improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, or death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
  - g. How will the project/activity build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for

COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved?

3. Timeline and Budget

- a. Provide a detailed timeline of the project/activity that shows major milestones
- b. Describe the budget for the project/activity

Each application must be submitted through the online form. Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, December 12, 2022.

**E. Application Review & Selection Information**

Each application will be reviewed and scored by an advisory committee established by the WDH. This committee will include individuals from the Office of Performance Improvement and Health Equity and the Public Health Division. 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 WDH Senior Administrator will review the highest-scoring applications and independently select awardees based upon the purpose and objectives of the Health Disparities Grant. Since the WDH must be a responsible steward of taxpayer funds, the WDH reserves the right to not award any grants, in the event the WDH 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 COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant. All grants are also subject to State of Wyoming contracting and vendor management requirements.

All applicants will be notified of their funding statuses no later than Monday, December 21, 2022.

**G. Agency Contacts**

Questions regarding this FOA may be submitted to [wdh.phd-opi@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh.phd-opi@wyo.gov) no later than November 28, 2022.

**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.

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