Request for Proposal

HUNGER + HEALTH | FEEDING AMERICA

CardinalHealth FOUNDATION

Request for Proposal

Food R_x for Health

Food Banks and Healthcare Organizations Partnering to Improve Health Outcomes of Adults with Diabetes by Addressing Food Insecurity

Cardinal Health Foundation is a Supporting Partner of Feeding America

Background

The Cardinal Health Foundation strives to help build healthier, more equitable communities, where all people have the opportunity to live healthy lives and share their perspectives and experiences – communities where equity, diversity and inclusion thrive. We are seeking proposals that value diverse perspectives, benefit diverse populations and address food insecurity, a complex social issue that greatly influences population health.

We know that healthcare is essential to overall well-being in any community, and we also know that health is not just about healthcare. In fact, social factors are greater predictors of health and well-being than clinical health. According to research reported in a 2016 issue of *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, medical care accounts for only 10 to 20 percent of the contributors to health outcomes. The other 80 to 90 percent are social determinants of health, including health-related behaviors, socioeconomic factors, and environmental factors.

Project Need and Food Pharmacies

There is ample evidence to support an association between food insecurity – the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life – and poor health outcomes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, food insecurity is a major risk factor for type 2 diabetes. The problem many Americans face is not necessarily getting too few calories, but rather filling their diet with readily available and inexpensive meals and drinks, often out of necessity, which are commonly high in sugar, highly processed carbohydrates, sodium, and saturated and trans fats.

Partnerships between food banks and healthcare organizations, known as food pharmacies, offer an opportunity for healthcare providers to engage and inspire patients around healthy eating, help move them toward food security, and improve health outcomes. Food pharmacies fill prescriptions written by healthcare providers to give patients access to healthy food. They also support sustained nutritional behavior change by providing cooking instructions, recipe sharing and nutritional coaching in addition to free, nutritious foods.

Request for Proposal

In 2020, the Cardinal Health Foundation launched five two-year food pharmacy pilot programs in communities where Cardinal Health employees live and work. Through this RFP, and with a national partner, Feeding America, we are expanding the program to Feeding America network food banks in other communities and focusing on improving health outcomes for people with diabetes.

Community need

Why focus on food insecurity and diabetes?

- Feeding America estimates that more than 50 million people may experience food insecurity this year due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- According to the 2020 National Diabetes Statistics Report, 34.2 million people have diabetes (10.5% of the US population) and 88 million people aged 18 years or older have prediabetes (34.5% of the adult US population).
- One of biggest risk factors of type 2 diabetes is food insecurity, according to a study published by the National Institutes of Health. Costs associated with diabetes in the US exceed $240 billion a year, according to the American Diabetes Association.
- Food insecurity can lead to diabetes, heart disease and other chronic conditions, according to a report in the Rhode Island Medical Journal. Chronic conditions are a major reason for hospital admissions, readmissions, and emergency room visits.

Project overview

This request for proposals seeks to address food insecurity and the direct tie to health outcomes related to diabetes. It is built on two premises:

- Improving access to healthier food choices aid in the management of chronic medical conditions and improve health outcomes;
- Everyone, regardless of financial situation or demographic, deserves regular, consistent access to nutritious foods.

Source: Feeding America

Request for Proposal

The RFP is designed to support the creation, expansion or acceleration of Food Pharmacies, programs that feature partnerships between food banks and healthcare organizations to provide nutritious foods to address health issues. Food pharmacies helpbridge the gap between healthcare systems and food banks to transform and sustain the healthier eating habits of low-income patients accessing healthcare services. These collaborations feature the innovation of providing nutritious food as medicine through clinic-based food pharmacies.

Specifically, we invite applications:

1. *From nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, food bank organizations within the Feeding America network working in partnership with healthcare organizations in or near these areas where Cardinal Health has a significant employee population:*

   - Auburn, Washington
   - Augusta, Georgia
   - Chicopee, Massachusetts
   - Deland, Florida
   - Dixon, California
   - Earth City, Missouri
   - El Paso, Texas
   - Greenwood, South Carolina
   - Houston, Texas
   - Jacksonville, Texas
   - Lewisville, Texas
   - Miami Lakes, Florida
   - Montgomery, New York
   - Norfolk, Nebraska
   - Olive Branch, Mississippi or Memphis, Tennessee
   - Ontario, California
   - Riverview, Florida
   - Swedesboro, New Jersey
   - Waukegan, Illinois
   - Wheeling, West Virginia

2. *Projects using a proven approach (see visual below) for identifying and addressing a food insecurity focus on adults with diabetes and adults at high risk of diabetes.*
   Note: The RFP Checklist includes more information on preferred attributes.

3. *Projects with strong commitments from healthcare organizations, including at least one clincian champion from each participating organization.*

4. *Project partners committed to improving health equity (everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible) and reducing health disparities by targeting underserved communities (differences in health outcomes and their causes among minority residents).*

Source: Feeding America

Technical assistance and reporting

The Cardinal Health Foundation will provide grantees with a project coordinator with strong experience working with health and human services organizations on improving social determinants of health. We require project leadership and other key staff from both the food bank and the healthcare entity to participate in a learning collaborative, with periodic virtual learning exchanges facilitated by the project coordinator

Throughout the grant process and learning collaborative sessions, Feeding America will share subject matter expertise as guest speakers as well as learnings and best practices from past and current programs and initiatives.

Tracking outcomes

Grant recipients will track and report aggregate health outcomes of diabetic patients (detailed in the RFP Checklist found online) and report data at the start of the project, then at six months, 12 months, 18 months and at the end of the 2-year grant-funding period.

At the close of the grant, the grantee is expected to provide a written report/and or poster on the project and its results, suitable for wide dissemination.

Request for Proposal

HUNGER + HEALTH | FEEDING AMERICA

CardinalHealth FOUNDATION

Awards
The Cardinal Health Foundation expects to award two-year grants made in two payments; the second payment is dependent upon first-year outcomes.

Requests for Cardinal Health Foundation funding should be no more than $150,000 in total for the two-year grant. Awards will vary based on strength of application and available funds.

How to apply
All proposals must be submitted via the Cardinal Health Foundation online system **by 11:59 pm EST on April 22, 2021.**
Note: Hard copy or email submissions will not be accepted.

1. Click here to access the online application system
2. Complete the RFP application checklist (provided on the website), and when applicable, provide additional information on proposed alternatives to preferred attributes.
3. Complete the budget template (provided on the website), providing detail of the organization's expenses to implement this program.
4. Upload the above required documents in the attachment section of the online application.

If you have not already done so, you will be required to *register within the online application portal before you begin the application process. We encourage you to submit your application in advance of the deadline so that any unforeseen difficulties (technical problems, for example) may be addressed well before the deadline.* Please direct inquiries to: *communityrelations@cardinalhealth.com*

Timeline
- March 19, 2021: Request for Proposals released
- March 26, 2021, 2pm – 3pm ET: RFP Informational Zoom call
  - **Register HERE for the informational Zoom call**
- **April 22, 2021: Application deadline**
- May 2021: Grant awards announced
- July 2021: Grant funds dispersed; grant work begins

Please email questions to the Cardinal Health Foundation at communityrelations@cardinalhealth.com.