

Richard  
King  
Mellon  
Foundation

## Health Screenings and Vaccinations

### Request for Proposals

**Application Deadlines**

Friday, September 9, 2022. Noon (12:00 PM). Eastern Standard Time.

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# Introduction to the Richard King Mellon Foundation

The Richard King Mellon Foundation's mission is to improve the competitive position of the region; strengthen the vitality of southwestern Pennsylvania, particularly the City of Pittsburgh and its neighborhoods; and protect important habitats and amenities in western Pennsylvania and other key landscapes across the nation.

Founded in 1947, the Foundation is the largest foundation in southwestern Pennsylvania, and one of the 50 largest in the world. The Foundation's 2021 year-end net assets were \$3.4 billion, and its Trustees in 2021 disbursed \$152 million in grants and program-related investments. The Foundation focuses its funding on six mutually reinforcing funding programs, delineated in [its 2021-2030 Strategic Plan](#). These funding programs are Conservation; Economic Development; Economic Mobility; Health and Well-Being; Organizational Effectiveness; and Social-Impact Investments. All six programs invest in bold, evidence-informed solutions that align with the Foundation's mission and contribute to positive change.

## Health and Well-Being Funding Program

[Health and Well-Being](#) is one of the six programs defined in the Foundation's 2021-2030 strategic plan. The Health and Well-Being program serves children, youth and adults who reside in Allegheny or Westmoreland counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Through the Health and Well-Being program, the Foundation seeks to support individuals in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties who are unable to live a healthy life due to conditions in their communities, lack of integration across sectors, and differences in the availability of quality supports and services. The Foundation organizes its Health and Well-Being program into three areas: Healthy People, Healthy Communities, and Advancing Science. Each investment area contains priorities and outcomes that further describe the Foundation's funding interests and the changes that the Foundation hopes to create.

## Background: Health Screenings and Vaccinations

During the past two years, thousands of individuals in the region were either unable to attend or cancelled routine health screenings. The data from the Centers for Disease Control, life insurance companies, and other sources at the national level is beginning to reveal how the lack of routine screenings during Covid-19 has translated into higher mortality rates for cancer, stroke, heart disease, substance use, and other chronic diseases. The death rate for several of those diseases has also been more pronounced along racial and ethnic lines. As a result of vaccine hesitancy during Covid-19, many parents have also forgone immunizing their children for preventable diseases such as measles.

To offer a few examples:

1. In 2020, mortality rates for heart disease and stroke increased 4.3% and 6.4%, respectively.
2. The number of alcohol-related deaths increased 25%, outpacing the increase among all other causes of death. More individuals below the age of 65 died from alcohol-related causes than they did Covid-19.
3. During the past two years, more than 22 million infants missed their first dose of measles vaccine, or 3 million more than in 2019 and the largest annual increase in over 20 years.

The reduction in health screenings and vaccinations likely correlates with other factors at the community level, including behavior changes resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic that will require more data and analysis

# Request for Proposals

The Richard King Mellon Foundation is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that aims to ensure that individuals in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties have access to health screening and vaccinations. Successful proposals may also address related objectives such as research on obstacles to increasing health screenings and vaccinations in high-risk communities.

The Foundation strongly encourages collaborative proposals that engage multiple partners across social services, healthcare, education, social mission for-profits, and university research.

## Eligibility Criteria

The Foundation's general eligibility criteria apply to the RFP. Please review the Funding Policies on the [Apply](#) page of the Foundation's website and the [General FAQs](#) found on the Foundation's Nonprofit and Public Sector Partners webpage.

## Funding Guidelines

The Foundation expects to provide two types of support through this RFP.

### Planning and Innovation grants:

- Focus on experimentation and the development of new ideas.
- Will provide up to \$250,000 and funded activities should be completed within 12 to 18 months after the grant award

### Scalability grants:

- Sustain and expand promising, evidence-informed initiatives.
- Will provide up to \$400,000 and funded activities should be completed within 24 months after the grant award

Grant funds awarded through this RFP may be used for a variety of expenses such as program and service delivery, consultant fees, evaluation, or "overhead" or administrative expenses. A limited amount of capital expenditures for equipment and lab infrastructure that are essential to accomplish the outcomes of the proposal may be included.

If an application is truly exceptional, the Foundation may consider providing more than \$250,000 for Planning and Innovation grants or more than \$400,000 for Scalability grants. Successful grantees may be invited to apply for follow-on funding or additional capacity-building funding opportunities at the conclusion of the grant.

## What the Foundation Will Not Fund

The Foundation will not fund the following through this RFP:

- Endowments
- Advocacy, political causes, or events
- Existing deficits or retroactive funding
- Event sponsorships

## Application Timeline

Funding is expected to be awarded in the fall of 2022.

Schedule	
Friday, September 9, 2022. Noon (12:00 PM) EST.	Applications submitted. <a href="https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_5499?SA=SNA&amp;FID=35046">https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_5499?SA=SNA&amp;FID=35046</a>
October 14, 2022	Funding Status Notification
October 28, 2022	Funds Issued for Awarded Grants

## Inquiries

Please contact Nikki Pirain ([npirain@rkmf.org](mailto:npirain@rkmf.org)) at the Foundation to discuss questions regarding this RFP. However, a discussion is discretionary and not a requirement.