

VT Community Health Equity Partnership Community Project Funding to Address Health Inequities: Funding Application

Deadline: Midnight on September 9, 2022

Funding is intended to assist **NEK Prosper! Caledonia + Southern Essex Accountable Health Community** to address health inequity(s) experienced in the St. Johnsbury District which were exacerbated during COVID-19, and which are described in a **Data Driven Problem Statement** as: *Due to stigma, marginalization and systemic inequalities, not everyone in Caledonia and Southern Essex Counties has fair and just opportunity to prosper (be financially secure, mentally healthy, physically healthy, well-housed and well-nourished), nor safe, accessible and inclusive opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making about the health and well-being of themselves, their families and their communities. This is true particularly for those experiencing stigma, marginalization and avoidable systemic inequalities associated with socioeconomic status; race, ethnicity and culture; sexual orientation and gender identity; visible and invisible disabilities; trauma, mental health and substance misuse disorders, and justice-involvement.*

NEK Prosper! is interested in supporting projects which help us achieve a Vision of prosperity for *all* and our Aspiration to build our collective and community capacity to dismantle systemic inequality and marginalization, foster community leadership and community-driven solutions and ensure fair and just opportunity to health and prosperity.

1. Type of Applicant:

Non-profit Organization Group/Association[^] Individual* Other (please describe):

2. Name of Applicant (organization, group, individual): **Blue Spruce Health, LLC**

[^]If you operate under the umbrella of a larger organization (for example, [the Hub](#) operates under Umbrella), please provide the name of the organization:

*If an individual, please provide the name of your fiscal sponsor organization:

3. Applicant's (organization or fiscal sponsor as applicable) **Street Address** (Street/Road, City, State, Zip Code): **25 Depot Street, St. Johnsbury Vermont,**

4. **Primary Contact Person Name** (for project): Megan Marquissee

5. **Primary Contact Person** (for project) **Email Address:** megan@bluespruce.care

6. **Primary Contact Person** (for project) **Preferred Phone Number:** (802) 500-6923

7. **Tax Identification Number** (organization or fiscal sponsor as applicable): **86-3511035**

8. **Amount Requested** (no less than \$2,500 or more than \$50,000): **\$50,000**

9. Schedule of Work:

- Start Date: Fall/ Winter 2023
- End Date (no later than May 31, 2023): May 31, 2023

10. Project Name – Provide a one-line name for your project: **St. Johnsbury DPC Clinic Launch**

11. Project Purpose Summary – Provide a short three to four sentence summary of the purpose of your project:

Our project intention is to launch our St. Johnsbury Blue Spruce Health Direct Primary Care office. An office that serves a very diverse population, while providing compressive healthcare for all those who receive care with us regardless of socioeconomic status, race, gender identity, ethnicity or culture. Opening our office in St. Johnsbury increases capacity to treat and take care of more community members.

12. What Vermont town(s) will be directly served by your project?

St. Johnsbury District: Barnet, Burke, Concord, Danville, East Haven, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Maidstone, Newark, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Sutton, Topsham, Victory, Walden, Waterford, Wheelock

13. Describe the Project - the work you'll do, the overall timeline and how you'll use the requested funds (will also need to attach a Project Budget – see example on Page 3) (funded portion must be complete by May 31, 2023) (no more than 1,500 characters):

These valuable funds will be used to help us update the building so it is accessible to everyone with modifications for handicap ramps, sinks, and generalized accessibility in the clinic. It is important for us that everyone has easy access to healthcare not only regardless to their SDH but their physical abilities.

Funds will be used for the cost of labor for consultants like contractors, plumbers, and electricians. Funds will be used for materials to help make this building more accessible to people with various abilities. With inflation the cost of materials has become extremely expensive maing what seem like easy modification a very expensive undertaking. Some of the supplies would be lumber, sinks, and the modification of lights, switches and plumbing to make our healthcare office more accessible to everyone. If funds allow the addition of a handicap shower to allow treatment of various skin conditions in office without needing to send people elsewhere.

Construction on the space for these modifications would start Fall/ Winter 2022 with completion by May 31st 2023.

Contractors have walked through already and provided basic estimates, and more detailed quotes are in the process of being obtained. Once finalized quotes are obtained, we will apply for permits and then start construction after permits have been approved.

Construction will not take very long; the length of this project is lengthened to allow for additional time for permitting.

14. Describe the Focus Population (who will benefit?) (no more than 500 characters):

Who will benefit from this project is the St. JOhnsbury district community. Our DPC clinic is an inventive care model that allows us to focus on populations that are often underserved and overlooked and do not have the ease of access to healthcare that other populations have.. The uninsured, under insured, people without insurance due to immigration status are just a few of the populations that would have the greatest benefit from this project. These individuals come with all ability levels and needs, and having a clinic that not only provides healthcare to these underserved populations but is easily accessible by people of all physical abilities is very important to us.

This group experiences stigma, marginalization and avoidable systemic inequalities associated with socioeconomic status; race, ethnicity and culture. A group that is often underserved by traditional healthcare. Having a clinic that is open to caring for them that is accessible to all physical abilities is a huge need for this community.

15. Describe how this project was identified or designed by the intended beneficiaries (no more than 500 characters):

This project was identified after opening our Newport office. The amount of members we have that are uninsured or underinsured are very high and it left us wanting to open another clinic in the area to help continue serving our community better with another model of healthcare that does not disclude or discriminate due to socioeconomic status.

16. Describe the Project Goals and Desired Results (what will success look like?) (no more than 500 characters):

Success for this project is to be able to open our doors and serve our community in the St. JOhnsbury district for people with all physician abilities regardless of socioeconomic status.

17. Identifying milestones provides a way to monitor the progress of your project and make course corrections, if needed. When and how will you identify milestones for this project? (no more than 1,500 characters):

Milestones for this project are relatively simple since we have a space already. There is a planning phase where expert consultation would be acquired on appropriate modifications to the space, followed by quotes from contractors, permitting phase and an execution phase. All of this will be done by the May 31st, 2023 goal.

18. Describe your team (the project champions and any community partners you are working with / intend to work with to achieve these results). If not yet working with these partners, please describe your plan to outreach and engage these partners (no more than 1,500 characters):

This small team consists of a project coordinator hired and paid for by Blue Spruce Health, Contractors, and Owner of Blue Spruce Health to guide this project along. As a small business this small team is all that should be needed to get this project done.

- 19. Please explain how the intended work may positively impact the data driven problem statement and/or help NEK Prosper! achieve our Vision and Aspiration described above (no more than 1,500 characters):**

The work of making our space accessible to everyone so we can open is just the beginning of the work that will be done! This clinic will provide us the ability to serve our community in a way that is different from traditional healthcare. A part of having health equity is giving people the option to choose healthcare that works for them and meets their needs.

Direct primary care (DPC) is an emerging model of care distinguished by lower price points for quality comprehensive services. The affordability of DPC attracts a broad patient population that may encompass a wide range of socioeconomic needs. It is critical to identify social determinants of health (SDH) in DPC practices to design strategies aimed to mitigate social risk factors, especially for vulnerable populations that can only afford DPC. DPC has the capacity to benefit both physicians and patients alike. For physicians, this model eliminates the insurance middleman and stabilizes finances. Rather than worrying about coding and billing, physicians will have time to prioritize the individual needs of their patients and build a strong rapport with them. Consequently, patients achieve more accessibility to quality routine, chronic, and preventive care services without being blindsided by additional financial barriers.

- 20. (Optional) Feel free to provide additional information you think may be useful to the reviewers in evaluating this application. What else should we know about the project that we didn't ask? (no more than 1,500 characters):**

This clinic would be a huge asset to the St. Johnsbury district like we are in the Newport HSA. We provide services to a vast population. We not only support the uninsured, underinsured but we also provide gender-affirming care to the NEK. The NEK does not have a lot of options for all the populations we serve but especially those seeking gender affirming care.

Our mission is that we are people caring for people and have embedded this into our office culture to better serve our community. We appreciate your time in reviewing our application, and hope you will strongly consider us to receive financial support.

VT Community Health Equity Partnership Community Project Funding to Address Health Inequities: Project Budget Example

Organization/Group/Grantee Name: Blue Spruce Health			
Title of Project: St. Johnsbury Blue Spruce Office Launch			
Expense Category*	Description	Request	Please note any other secured funding or in-kind donation toward expenses for Project
Staffing	None	\$ 0	Paid for by Blue Spruce
Consultants (legal fees, trainers, graphic design, etc.)	Contractors - \$8000 Plumbers- \$2000 Electricians- \$3000 Cost of labor	\$ 13,000	
Materials & Supplies (printing, books, art supplies, building materials, etc.)	Building Supplies - \$37,000	\$ 37,000	
Travel	None	\$ 0	
Other (fees for conferences, trainings etc.)	None	\$ 0	
	Total Request	\$ 50,000	

*If a category is not applicable, please leave it blank