



NEK Prosper! Healthy Cents Fund GUIDANCE AND LINKS TO TEMPLATES

Deadlines:

Letter of Intent: April 19th, 2023 at 11:59p.m.

Application (*invited proposals only*): June 2nd, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Purpose: The Healthy Cents Fund is administered through NEK Prosper!, which is the Caledonia and Southern Essex Accountable Health Community (AHC). The NEK Prosper! Healthy Cents Fund is excited to invite local entities to apply for this opportunity. Project proposals should identify innovative and upstream projects that will advance health and create thriving communities through positive social, economic, or environmental impact. Projects should accelerate the work of NEK Prosper! and move the AHC closer to the mission that Northeast Kingdom communities are:

- [Well-Nourished](#)
- [Well-Housed](#)
- [Financially Secure](#)
- [Mentally Healthy](#)
- [Physically Healthy](#)

The NEK Prosper! Healthy Cents Fund will support projects that address health inequities experienced in the St. Johnsbury service area described in the following data-driven problem statement: *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.

Source of Funding: Funding for the Healthy Cents Fund comes from Medicaid capitated payments to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) paid through the Vermont All Payer Model (APM) and the state-wide Accountable Care Organization (ACO) – OneCareVT.

Funding Specifics: NEK Prosper! Healthy Cents Fund has a total of \$50,000 to support one-year funding awards, up to a maximum request of \$25,000 per applicant for the one-year project period. It is the intent of NEK Prosper! to fund 2-5 proposals, dependent upon the amount of funds requested and the objective review process.

Eligible and Non-eligible Expenses:

Eligible: Grant recipients may use funds only for reasonable program purposes, including staffing/personnel (salaries/wages and contracted personnel), travel, supplies, and services. Consultants, mileage, training, materials and rent are all eligible expenses.

Non-eligible: Funding may not be used for:

- Research that would require review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for human subjects' protection
- Clinical care
- Publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body

Funding will be awarded in a two-payment method, with an initial payment at the outset of the project period to be used in accordance with the proposed project budget. A final payment will be made upon submission of a final invoice and report.

Process and Timeline:

- April 7th – Announcement of opportunity
- April 13th from noon-1:00pm – WebEx Q&A Session
- April 19th by 11:59pm - Letter of Intent (LOI) due - email to d.gibbs@nvrh.org
 - [Letter of Intent Template Word](#)
 - [Letter of Intent Template PDF](#)
- May 5th - Selected applicants will receive email invitations to submit full proposals
- June 2nd by 5:00pm - Full project proposals (application and budget) due- email to d.gibbs@nvrh.org
 - [Full Application and Budget Template Word](#)
 - [Full Application and Budget Template PDF](#)
- June 30th – Funding decisions communicated to successful applicants via email and paperwork provided to formalize grant award

- July 1st, 2023 - June 30th, 2024 – Grant project period
 - Bi-monthly project activity reports are required by all grantees due by the 10th of each of the following months: September, November, January, March, May, and a final report due in July

Eligibility and Priority:

In general, grants will be awarded to organizations or individuals* that meet these criteria:

- 501(c)3 organizations, individuals*, municipalities, small businesses, affinity groups, and faith-based organizations serving people in the NVRH service area**
- Has a mission to provide programs, services, or activities that promote health and healthy communities
- Can provide a clear link to an identified community need
- Exhibit a collaborative, partnership approach to delivering services
- Have measurable goals and objectives for grant-funded services/activities

Priority will be given to projects identified and/or designed by those experiencing stigma, marginalization and avoidable systemic inequalities and who are typically left out of public health-oriented funding opportunities. This includes but is not limited to:

- Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color (BIPOC)
- People living in rural areas/internet deserts
- People experiencing homelessness or insecure housing
- People with disabilities
- People experiencing substance use disorders
- People who are justice-involved
- Refugees/Immigrants/multilingual communities
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People experiencing poverty
- People experiencing mental illness

*Individual applicants must identify a fiscal sponsor organization who is committed to accepting the grant award.

**Towns in the NVRH Service Area: Barnet, Barton, Burke, Concord, Danville, East Haven, Gilman, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Maidstone, Newark, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Sutton, Victory, Walden, Waterford, and Wheelock.

Project Outcomes: Projects are required to advance, enhance, or positively impact the outcomes and work of the NEK Prosper! Collaborative Action Networks (CANs), as outlined below:

CAN	Current Focus:	Outcomes:
Mentally Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma reduction • Transformational process model to improve intergenerational health through a trauma-informed approach and Adverse Childhood Experience reduction 	<p>Every individual realizes their, her or his own potential, can cope with the stresses of life, is able to make a contribution to their, her or his community, feels okay reaching out for help when times get tough, knows where and how to reach out for help, and that help honors their mental health needs.</p> <p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of middle and school students who ever attempted suicide • % of LGBT high school students who ever attempted suicide, past 12 months • % of adults with poor mental health/frequent mental distress • % of adults with four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences
Financially Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining the root causes of inequities and making more of what works to build personal and social capital • Economic Mobility Mentoring 	<p>All people in the NEK feel safe, experience wellness and connection, as well as have equitable agency and access to resources.</p> <p>Measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Vermonters living below the Federal Poverty Level
Physically Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-barrier access to equipment to facilitate exposure and engagement in wellness activities 	<p>Maintaining physical health and well-being through healthy behaviors & medical care.</p> <p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of adults with no leisure time for aerobic activity • % of adults meeting aerobic activity guidelines (150 minutes of aerobic exercise weekly)
Well-Housed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma reduction and education to reduce and prevent bed bug infestations 	<p>Being well housed means living in affordable and safe homes located in healthy communities with opportunities for positive social interactions.</p> <p>Measure:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of households that spend 30% or more of income on housing
Well-Nourished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Hero social marketing campaign • Rescuing minimally processed foods for redistribution to food shelves and pantries 	<p>Enhancing health in our region through encouraging increased fruit and vegetable consumption.</p> <p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of adolescents (grades 9–12) and adults eating 2 or more fruits daily • % of adolescents (grades 9–12) and adults eating 3 or more vegetables daily

Application Review Committee and Criteria:

A successful application will include these criteria:

- Closely aligned with the NEK Prosper! Collaborative Action Networks (CANs) outcome areas, as identified above. Visit <https://nekprosper.org> for information about CAN initiatives.
 - Demonstrate alignment with CAN goals and outcomes
 - Letter of Intent will be reviewed and projects endorsed by the CAN(s) will be invited to submit a full application
 - Funded applications will support the work of the appropriate CAN or CANs.
- Identify a lead organization to accept fiscal responsibility and accountability
 - Include required contact information and tax identification number
- Include a plan for engagement
 - A method to include community input and/or test validity of the intervention/investment to include the people (target population) who will benefit
- Include a plan for evaluation of the project: *How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anybody better off?*
- Include a proposed budget. Funds can be used to support staff and other operating costs, built environment improvements, and leverage or match other funds.

Process to submit Letter of Intent and RFP/Application:

- Submit the written Letter of Intent and Application to:
 - Diana Gibbs, d.gibbs@nvrh.org
 - Letter of Intent- Due by April 19 at 11:59pm
 - Invited applicants will submit their completed application by June 2 at 5pm

Selection process:

- Letters of Intent will be reviewed by CAN representatives. CAN-endorsd projects will be notified by May 5 of invitation to submit full application.
- Full proposals will be reviewed by the Healthy Cents Fund review committee.
- Selected applicants will be notified of their award by June 30 and will be required to complete paperwork to formalize acceptance of the funding and expectations, including:
 - W-9
 - Signed agreement outlining terms of the award

**For questions regarding this NEK Prosper! Healthy Cents Fund opportunity
or other support, please contact:**

**Diana Gibbs, VP of Marketing and Community Health Improvement, at
d.gibbs@nvrh.org or call 802-748-7590**