



## **BUHL REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION**

Promoting a Healthy Community

# 2025 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS OPTIMIZING THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN OF MERCER COUNTY

Release Date: March 3, 2025

LQI Deadline: April 7, 2025

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation (BRHF) is a private health foundation, committed to making a positive impact on the health and well-being of the community we serve through education, grants, scholarships and collaborative partnerships with local organizations. Our mission to identify and address the diverse health care needs of the community gives us the unique opportunity to invest in your innovative solutions.

### **OVERVIEW**

We are one of the lowest ranked counties regarding health and wellness in the state of Pennsylvania. Some of the leading health concerns have been identified as heart disease, obesity and diabetes.

On the surface, these health concerns seem unrelated, but evidence shows a compelling correlation between these negative health outcomes and the effects of excessive adversity on the human body and its biological systems. Research suggests that both adults and developing children who face significant hardships in their environment and/or experiences are at higher risk for developing stress-associated diseases, like those mentioned above.<sup>1</sup>

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation issues this Request for Proposals to our community stakeholders, seeking innovative initiatives that propose to improve health outcomes in our community by addressing the inequities, health disparities, and obstacles that children and their families face. Health is directly and positively impacted when communities and systems adequately support families and children during the early childhood stages of development. (I)

### **GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

BRHF will award grants in 2025 for implementation of initiatives that strive to increase children's access to optimal health and well-being and/or improve their access to quality, holistic healthcare.

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<sup>1</sup> National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2020) *Connecting the Brain to the Rest of the Body: Early Childhood Development and Lifelong Health Are Deeply Intertwined: Working Paper No. 15*. Available at [www.developingchild.harvard.edu](http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu)

## **USE OF FUNDS**

Organizations are invited to apply for funding to launch a new initiative focused on optimizing the health of the children in Mercer County, PA through collaboration and innovation.

\*\*\*If awarded, funding must be exhausted within a one-year grant period from the date funds were received; BRHF does not award multi-year grants\*\*\*

## **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify as a grant recipient, your organization's initiative must meet the following requirements:

- Initiative must be new to the community.
- Initiative must provide services and/or outreach to children in the community aged 18 and under.
- Initiative must intentionally address health disparities and/or inequities.
- Initiative's goals must be clearly identified and methods for measurement of goals and objectives should be clearly described.
- Initiative must include a plan for collaborating across sectors in our community and/or establishing strong community partnerships.

## **GRANT PRIORITIES**

The recipient(s) of the OHOC grant will:

- Demonstrate creativity and innovation in the community.
- Predominantly serve children with demonstrated health disparities or unmet health needs.
- Actively develop strong, cross-sector community partnerships.
- Address children's health or well-being and/or increase their access to necessary health services.
- Have a clear plan for sustainability beyond the grant period.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Eligible applicants will meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status, government agency or utilizing a fiscal agent who is clearly identified in the application.
- Faith-based organizations must welcome all faiths and participation in religious activity participation must be clearly defined as optional.
- Applicant's efforts must serve individuals, aged 18 and under, who reside in Mercer County, PA.
- Previous grantees of BRHF must have fulfilled the required 18 month waiting period from their last grant award and all previous grants must be closed (all grant reporting completed and any unused funds returned).

## **UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

This grant may not be used to fund the following:

- Supplemental funding to previously awarded grants or existing programs.
- Direct payment to a pediatric care provider.
- Research projects, such as clinical trials.
- Health fairs or other one-time events.
- Endowment Support
- Consumables and daily supplies
- No reimbursements
- Snacks/food
- Give-a-ways/prizes
- Disposable items
- Individuals
- For-profit entities
- Lobbying/Political campaigns
- Debt reduction/existing financial obligations
- Foreign operations or expenditure
- Fundraising event sponsorship
- Membership in Civic Organizations
- Purchase of vehicles
- Additional expenses may be disallowed at the discretion of BRHF

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Responses to this RFP must be submitted through [BRHF's grant portal](#). All other forms of submission will not be reviewed. First-time applicants will need to create a new account. Once an account is established, the Letter of Interest can be completed within the portal and must be submitted by the deadline listed in this RFP.

A review of the LOI's received will prompt BRHF to issue invitations for detailed proposals. All applicants will be notified of the status of their LOI, either via invitation to continue the application process or a letter of ineligibility.

Detailed proposals will require the upload of the organization's most recent 990, a full project budget, proposed use of the funding requested and additional details and documentation regarding your organization and proposed initiative.

Additional attachments to the application are optional, not scored, and may not be used in response to application questions. Applicants may include up to four pages of attachments, including, but not limited to: citations/references, flyers, letters of support and letters of intent or interest from current or future community partners.

## APPLICATION REVIEW

Detailed proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Creativity and innovation
- Significance of impact on the community's health needs
- Effective collaboration efforts or goals
- Actionability

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients will be required to submit reports on project development and implementation on an interim and final reporting schedule determined by the BRHF Director of Grantmaking.

## RFP TIMELINE

The RFP Cycle will follow the timeline below:

Deadline for LOI	April 7, 2025
Detailed Proposal Invitations Sent	April 14, 2025
Deadline for Detailed Proposal	May 21, 2025
Award Announcements	July 8, 2025
Funding Issued	July 15, 2025

## QUESTIONS

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation staff is here to be a resource throughout the application process. Questions, requests for guidance, and portal support needs should be directed to Kimberly Porsch, Director of Grantmaking, [kimberly@buhlrf.org](mailto:kimberly@buhlrf.org) or Ashley Mausser, Executive Team Assistant, [ashley@buhlrf.org](mailto:ashley@buhlrf.org).