

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HEALTH FUND
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:
IHHEEL POLICY PLATFORM ADVOCACY
IHHEEL POLICY PLATFORM LEARNING

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
JUNE 2024



The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization bringing people, ideas and infrastructure together to create a collective impact that reduces health disparities and improves community health for the underserved living in California. For information about The Center, visit www.shfcenter.org.

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA CAREFULLY

BACKGROUND

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center) was founded by Sierra Health Foundation in 2012 as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With offices in Sacramento and Fresno, The Center pursues the promise of health and racial equity in communities across California. Leveraging leadership, operational and funding support from Sierra Health Foundation and its partners, The Center establishes investment partnerships with public and private funders; community members; community organizations; national, state, and local government agencies; nonprofits; and businesses to advance health equity.

The Center recognizes that our health is influenced by many factors, including socioeconomic conditions, environment, education, income, access to transportation, green space, healthy food and quality health care – all of which are determinants of health. The Center is dedicated to health and racial equity and racial justice.

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund (SJVHF) is a unique partnership among more than 40 national and California funders and more than 170 community-based organizations working to advance health and racial equity in the state’s San Joaquin Valley. One of the defining aspects of SJVHF is that, while it is a funder collaborative, the policy priorities that guide SJVHF’s direction are developed and endorsed annually by community partner organizations. Those policy priorities are documented in the [IHHEEL \(Immigration, Health, Housing, Education, Environmental Justice, Land Use and Planning and Digital Divide\) Policy Platform](#). Through the IHHEEL funding opportunities, The Center strives to advance the movement for improved health and racial equity outcomes in the San Joaquin Valley consistent with the partners’ endorsed policy platform. Successful IHHEEL grant applications will emphasize advocacy, organizing and capacity-building grant goals that have demonstrated potential to advance some specified aspect of SJVHF’s IHHEEL Policy Platform.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This Request for Proposals offers two opportunities under the IHHEEL funding stream: **IHHEEL Advocacy** grants and **IHHEEL Learning** grants. Applicants may submit a proposal for one grant opportunity only.

IHHEEL Advocacy Grants

One-year IHHEEL Advocacy grants are for up to \$25,000. Applicants must demonstrate experience in systems change advocacy and be working in partnerships with impacted grassroots community members. Applicants' projects should advance policy and/or systems change goals that align with [the 2023-2024 IHHEEL Policy Platform](#).

IHHEEL Learning Grants

One-year IHHEEL Learning grants are for up to \$15,000. Applicants must demonstrate interest and potential for policy and/or systems change work that is aligned with [the 2023-2024 IHHEEL Policy Platform](#). Applicants' projects should identify how their organization may learn or build capacity to uniquely engage or further engage in policy and system change advocacy. The purpose of this grant is to encourage new partners or projects to contribute to the advancement of IHHEEL Policy Platform goals.

If awarded a grant, all awarded partners:

- Are strongly encouraged to participate in monthly 90-minute SJVHF Policy Committee virtual meetings.
- Are strongly encouraged to participate in an IHHEEL Policy Sub-committee.
- Are strongly encouraged to attend a minimum of three SJVHF partner meetings/convenings during the grant year (e.g., Equity on the Mall, regional virtual or in-person convenings, partner meetings, funder briefings, technical assistance training, etc.)
- Are required to track their participation in any of the meetings or events above to include in a final narrative report.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Center will fund nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are designated as a 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization. Fiscal sponsors for entities that are not qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to apply. Fiscal sponsors may apply separately on behalf of more than one organization or collaborative group.

In addition to the eligibility criteria mentioned in the IHHEEL Advocacy and Learning Grant descriptions above, the proposed grant goal, objectives, activities and anticipated outcomes must be aligned with the IHHEEL Policy Platform and be intended to advance health and racial equity in the San Joaquin Valley.

The work must be conducted in at least one of the nine counties that make up the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund funding region. These counties include:

- Tulare
- Stanislaus
- San Joaquin
- Merced
- Mariposa
- Madera
- Fresno
- Kings
- Kern

SELECTION CRITERIA

The most competitive applications will:

- Identify a grant goal, realistic objectives and aligned activities that would advance the IHHEEL Policy Platform. Note: Based on the feedback from the 2024 Equity on the Road town halls, the IHHEEL Round 9 grants will focus on four priority areas: Environmental Justice, Immigration, Health and Housing.
- Demonstrate how the proposed grant activities would reduce health disparities, promote health and racial equity and/or address systemic barriers to a healthier and more equitable San Joaquin Valley.
- Demonstrate approaches and authentic partnerships with the impacted community with whom the applicant works.
- Include realistic project scope, budget and anticipated outcomes.
- Leverage social and financial resources, experience, expertise and partnerships to deepen the desired outcomes of the grant.
- Identify how desired outcomes will be demonstrated and tracked.
- Reference prior deliverables and outcomes from prior IHHEEL Grants, if applicable.
- Demonstrate recent engagement in the SJVHF's Policy Committee meetings, convenings, trainings and events. If there has been no engagement with SJVHF, please share specific ways that you can contribute to the SJVHF community of practice (e.g., assist with moderating a training or convening).

The region's overall geographic and demographic diversity will be considered in the selection process.

FUNDING INFORMATION

- Applicants may request any amount up to \$25,000 for SJVHF IHHEEL Advocacy grants or up to \$15,000 for SJVHF IHHEEL Learning grants.
- The grant term is one year, beginning August 15, 2024, and ending on August 14, 2025. Different grant terms might be considered if a detailed rationale is provided.
- Up to 15% of direct costs may be requested for indirect costs.
- Direct costs may include, but are not limited to, staff compensation, consultants, operating costs, meeting costs, travel and necessary equipment.
- Funded organizations are required to submit a detailed financial report and a final narrative report summarizing major activities, explaining outcomes and learnings, and including any learning products within 30 days of the grant's end. Funded organizations should be prepared to discuss interim progress toward the grant goal, as well as challenges and reflections on the grant work with Center staff and/or SJVHF partners during partner convenings and/or funder site visits or calls.

Examples of projects that might be funded:

IHHEEL Advocacy Projects:

- Ensuring that individuals impacted by the lack of broadband services can be engaged in shaping sustainable solutions for current and future needs.
- Increasing participation of community, parents and students in developing Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) to ensure fiscal transparency and increased assurances that students receive benefits of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).
- Ensuring investments meaningfully improve conditions and infrastructure and expand reforestation and urban greenery.
- Strengthening accountability and investments that support the local implementation of comprehensive gender and reproductive justice policies.
- Protecting tenants by strengthening and enforcing local and statewide rent stabilization, just-cause eviction, and source of income discrimination laws.
- Securing partnerships with local governments and educational institutions to encourage pro-immigrant policies and increased opportunities for education, inclusion and access to support services.
- Advocating for urban jurisdiction spheres of influence to be reimagined as equity and justice areas bolstered by increased use of targeted urban growth boundaries, affordable housing mandates, directed mitigation investments and the use of community land trusts as multi-benefit implementing infrastructures to achieve progressive planning, development and conservation outcomes.

IHHEEL Learning Projects:

- Advancing measures and policies that make affordable housing more accessible, such as a universal application in multiple languages and a public database of the availability of affordable housing units in a specific community or county.

- Improving awareness and access to land for California’s small scale, beginning and underserved producers to promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- Advocating to establish an immigration bond fund or a removal defense fund, not restricted by criminal history, for individuals in detention and removal proceedings in San Joaquin Valley communities where these policies currently not being considered.
- Promoting the local need for adoption of Good Neighbor guidelines that address potential neighborhood impacts of diesel particulate matter from on-road trucks associated with warehouses and distribution centers.

Examples of strategies that could be deployed to advance the proposed system change and advocacy work:

- Coalition Building/Partnership Development
- Civic Engagement
- Non-legislative Policy Conceptualization and Development
- Community Leadership Development
- Community Engagement, Organizing, Advocacy and Mobilization
- Research/Participatory Action Research
- Multi-Ethnic/Multi-Racial/Multi-Sector Collaboration
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Communications/Outreach and Education
- Youth Engagement, Organizing and Advocacy
- Peer Learning

What we will not fund:

- Direct Services*
- Debt Retirement
- Operational Deficits
- Partisan Activities
- Individuals
- Religious Organizations for Explicitly Religious Activities
- Activities that Exclusively Benefit the Members of Sectarian or religious Organizations
- 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations
- 501(c)(4) Organizations or Lobbying Activities

*Direct services are those that tend to meet people’s more immediate needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, literacy, life skills, individual development or physical or mental health care, rather than activities designed to result in policy and systems change. For example, a proposal that aims to purchase and provide meals to individuals is considered a direct services proposal. A proposal that expands access to the federal Supplemental and Nutritious Assistance Program or SNAP is an advocacy or systems change proposal.

If you have question about what will be or will not be funded, send questions and inquiries to sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org with the subject line: SJVHF IHHEEL R9 Application Question.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

July 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time)

APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

July 29, 2024

APPROXIMATE DATE GRANTS ISSUED:

August 15, 2024

Proposals received after the due date and time will not be reviewed. Submission before the deadline date is advised in case you experience technical difficulties with submitting your application through the portal. We may not be able to respond to your requests for help on the deadline date.

PROPOSERS' WEBINAR

We have scheduled one proposers' webinar to review the current San Joaquin Valley Health Fund funding opportunities and the application process and to answer questions. The webinar will be held on **Thursday, June 27, 2024 (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)**. Participation in the webinar is strongly recommended, though not required. Please review the application materials before attending the webinar. To register, click on the following hyperlink: [SJVHF IHHEEL Round 9 Proposers' Webinar](#).

IMPORTANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines.

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the RFA components.
- Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on **Friday, July 12, 2024**.
- You may access and submit the online application via the following link: [SJVHF IHHEEL R9 Online Application](#).
- Click "Save & Finish Later" to save your progress any time you will not be working on your application for a few minutes. You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application. Use this link each time you return to your in-progress application.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an *).
- Upload all documents listed under "Application Attachments Checklist" below.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- Send all questions and inquiries related to this funding opportunity to sjvhealthfund@shfcenter.org with the subject line: SJVHF IHHEEL R9 Application Question

APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST

- **Proposed Budget** (Download The Center’s proposed budget template using the following link: [Proposed Budget Template](#). Complete and upload your application before submitting. The form is also available in the online application portal.)
- **Applicant organization’s W-9 Form** (Blank form can be downloaded via the following link: [W-9 Form](#). Complete and upload with your application before submitting.)
- **501(c)(3) IRS Determination Letter**
- **Financial Reports** (Please provide financial reports that show organizational and/or institutional revenue and expenses for your most recent fiscal year. We prefer to receive both your most recent 990s (tax returns) and audited financial statements (AFS). If you have neither, please submit alternate statements that show your most recent financial activity.)

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Definition of incomplete application: the applicant did not answer all the questions, the applicant did not submit all the requested supporting documentation or did not use the correct grant template.