

COVID-19 VACCINE

Outreach and Education Grant Fact Sheet

Access the grant application and documents at: www.torchnet.org/availablegrants.html

PURPOSE OF GRANT: TORCH Foundation is contracted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunizations program to develop and administer a grant program for Texas Rural Health Clinics (RHC) to help reduce health disparities in their communities and to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine for rural residents. The purpose of this funding is to support targeted outreach and education to increase awareness, accessibility and uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations. Funding may be used to:

- (1) Support staffing of qualified healthcare personnel to conduct and coordinate community/patient outreach and education activities related to COVID-19, and to administer COVID-19 vaccine; and
- (2) Ensure access to COVID-19 vaccination sites and appointments through extended clinic hours and/or through mobile clinic(s).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Must be a current, operating Medicare certified Rural Health Clinic in Texas.

FUNDING LEVELS: Two funding levels are available through this program.

- (1) **Tier-1 Funding – Applicants eligible to receive up to \$70,000 per grant; up to 94 grants may be awarded:** Applicants may apply for up to \$70,000 per RHC to pay for the staffing cost (salaries and benefits) of one or more existing and/or new healthcare staff who are able to administer primarily a COVID-19 vaccine. Tier-1 funding request must be at least \$50,000. Tier-1 funding may be used to:
 - Provide outreach, education and information sharing to patients, community members, trusted messengers, and populations served by the clinic to increase COVID-19 vaccine awareness, accessibility, and uptake.
 - Support triage services and surge support for or in response to COVID-19.
 - Administer the COVID-19 vaccine at vaccination sites, such as the clinic's physical location, on-site pop-up vaccination sites, mobile clinics, or other locations in coordination with community-based organizations. If clinically appropriate, staff hired with COVID-19 funds may co-administer non-COVID-19 Advisory Committee Immunization Program – (ACIP-) approved child and adult vaccinations.
 - Reimburse travel expenses for any healthcare staff assigned to this grant to attend the TORCH Fall Conference in September 2023. Travel reimbursement is capped at \$1,600 per clinic.
- (2) **Tier-2 Funding – Applicant eligible to receive up to \$180,000 per grant; up to 35 grants may be awarded:** Applicants may apply for up to \$180,000 per RHC to pay for the staffing and incremental operational cost of operating extended clinic hour(s) and/or mobile clinic(s) to offer COVID-19 outreach, education and vaccination. Tier-2 funding request must be at least \$100,000. Applicants may request tier-2 grant funding to:
 - Deliver one or more of the Tier-1 activities/services (describe above); AND
 - Operate extended clinic hour(s) and/or operate mobile clinic(s) to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines. Clinics are not required to offer only COVID-19 vaccines and may administer other vaccinations (such as influenza vaccination) and offer other clinical services. Tier-2 grant funds may be used also to support the operation of mobile clinic(s).
 - Reimburse travel expenses for one or more healthcare staff assigned to this grant to attend the TORCH Fall Conference in September 2023. Travel reimbursement is capped at \$1,600 per clinic.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: The application is open until April 28, 2023. Submitted applications will be evaluated and considered for funding on a first-come, first-served basis, while funding is available. Notice of funding awards will be announced within two weeks after confirmed receipt of the submitted application.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services



INQUIRIES & SUBMISSION:

Submit questions and application to COVIDRHCGRANT@torchnet.org