

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 and Vaccines for Children program to develop and administer a funding 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); and
- (3) Identify/work with trusted messengers to deliver vaccine safety and effectiveness through culturally appropriate venues

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

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

- (1) **Tier-1 Funding – Applicant eligible to receive up to \$70,000 per grant:** 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, trust 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 \$6,400 per clinic.
- (2) **Tier-2 Funding – Applicant eligible to receive up to \$180,000 per grant:** 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. Applicant 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 at \$6,400 per clinic.
- (3) **Tier-3 Funding* – Applicant eligible to receive up to \$400,000 per grant**
 - Uses of funding: All the same activities as **Tier- 2**, but with a **June 2025 expiration**, and an optional \$100,000 to identify/work with trusted messengers to deliver vaccine safety and effectiveness through culturally appropriate venues
 - EXs: faithleaders, teachers, CHWs, local proprietors, community and civic leaders

***\$3,000,000 cap for system**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: *The application is open until June 30, 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. **Program ends June 2025.**



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services



INQUIRIES & SUBMISSION:

Submit questions and application to COVIDRHCGRANT@torchnet.org