**Libraries and Health Innovations Mini-Grant Program**

**Request for Applications**

**RFA Release Date:**  **July 15, 2022**

**Application Due Date:**    **August 31, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Earliest Anticipated Project Start Date:**  **October 1, 2022**

**Expected Project Period:**  **October 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023**

**Objective:**  The Center for Rural and Primary and Primary Healthcare (CRPH), in collaboration with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), is offering Libraries and Health Community Health Engagement Mini-Grants (“Mini-Grants”) that focus on community-driven health engagement strategies via a public library. Libraries and community groups are encouraged to submit proposals that promote healthy communities.

These mini-grants are intended for public libraries, in partnership with community members or groups, in South Carolina. These projects can be innovative in nature and should be designed to fit the local environment, needs, and resources. The CRPH is seeking proposals for activities/projects that will promote community health and improve health equity for historically underserved and under-resourced communities. We welcome partnerships that involve a diverse array of agencies working together to improve community health, such as a school and library collaborating to increase access to health services, or a parks & recreation agency and a library collaborating to increase access to green spaces and literacy via a StoryWalk®. Optional components may include, but are not limited to, the following:

* StoryWalks®, Little Food Pantries, Health Information Kiosks, changes to meeting rooms to support telehealth access, and other installations or materials that promote health and/or connections to health care.
* Programs to increase the [health](https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/learn/index.html) and [digital](https://literacy.ala.org/digital-literacy/) literacy among community members to be able to understand and use health information and make informed health decisions.
* Health education and/or programming on various health topics to include, but not limited to, healthy food access, chronic disease prevention, behavioral and mental health services, healthcare access resources, etc.
* Initiatives that address COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved [CDC].

**Eligibility Criteria:**

It is preferred that the primary grantee is a public library system. Rural health networks, healthcare systems, and other 501(c)3 organizations located in South Carolina are also eligible.\*

The source federal funding requirements do not require that grantee serves a primarily rural population for this award. \*\* All library systems in South Carolina are eligible.

*\*Note: If the applicant is not a library or library system, a clear and strong connection with the library must be demonstrated through a history of partnership. Letters of support and commitment or copies of MOAs already in place may be requested during the review process.*

**Award:**

This one-time funding announcement will fund at least four (4) cooperative agreements in amounts up to $5,000 to be expended by March 31, 2023. Awards are expected to be made to systems in each of the four (4) [DHEC Health Regions](https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/DIS%20FOM%20Health%20Regions%20Map.pdf).

**What We Fund:**

We welcome partnerships that involve a diverse array of agencies working together to improve community health. Categories of allowable funding include, but are not limited to:

* Health promotion and education materials and support
* Advertising and outreach related to grant-supported services

**We Do Not Fund:**

* Capital funds or funds for facilities
* Salaries for personnel not directly involved with the project

**Expectations of Awardees:**

As a partner in a cooperative agreement with the CRPH, successful applicants will be expected to work in collaboration with the CRPH to refine program plans. Program plans will be flexible to meet the needs of the awardees as they become apparent and/or are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or other contextual factors.

**Role of South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare:**

SCCRPH will provide technical and facilitative support as applicable, including but not limited to evaluation, data analysis, and connections with other programs as can benefit the awardee.

**Important Dates:**

***July 15, 2022***

Online application is available via [Submittable](https://sccrph.submittable.com/submit/6d347d0a-accb-4854-8303-d9b4af5698bf/libraries-and-health-innovations-mini-grant-cooperative-agreement-program) or [scruralhealth.org/library-mini-grant](https://www.scruralhealth.org/library-mini-grant)

***August 31, 2022***

Online application due by 5:00 p.m.

***Mid-September 2022***

Notice of Award

***October 1, 2022-March 31, 2023***

Project period

***April 30, 2023***

Invoice and Project Report Due

**About the Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare:**

The Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare (CRPH) supports and develops sustainable rural and primary healthcare delivery and education in South Carolina through clinical practice, training, and research. We strive for a future where all South Carolinians have access to high-value, quality health care.

**About the Department of Health and Environmental Control:**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is charged with promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment in South Carolina. With more than 3,800 employees working in 100 locations across the state, our vision is healthy people living in healthy communities.

**Background and Purpose of the Libraries and Health Innovations Cooperative Agreement Expansion Program:**

DHEC received a two-year, non-research grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s *National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Population and Rural Communities*.  Under this national initiative, DHEC sub-awarded the CRPH funding to provide mini-grants to libraries across the state of South Carolina.