

Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2025-2026 Grant Cycle

Funding Opportunity:	Texas Health Community Impact 2025-2026 Grant Cycle Southern Region (Erath and Johnson Counties)
RFP Release Date:	June 15, 2024
Deadline for Submitting Questions:	July 24, 2024, by 4 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT)
Deadline for Submitting Application:	Aug. 1, 2024, by 3 p.m. CDT
Total Funding Available:	Phase One: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program Objective 1: Up to \$50,000 per community collaborative• Program Objective 2: Up to \$50,000 per county; or up to \$100,000 for both counties Phase Two: Up to \$250,000
Estimated Number of Awards:	Phase One per County <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two to four community collaboratives• One independent quality assessor Phase Two per County <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One or two community collaboratives
Project Period:	Jan. 1, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase One: Jan. 1 to June 30, 2025• Phase Two: July 1, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2026

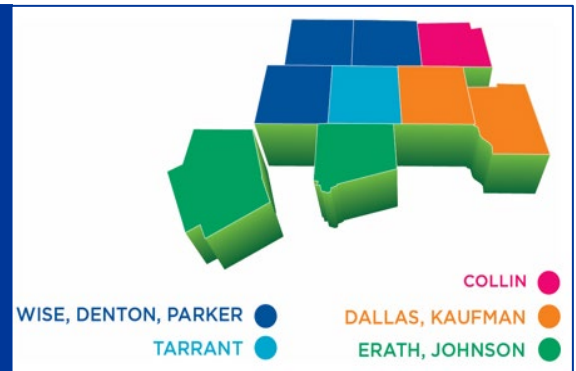
ABOUT TEXAS HEALTH

As the health system that cares for more North Texans than any other provider, Texas Health Resources is committed to delivering support through programs and services that help lead to measurable and sustainable community improvements. We serve as a catalyst to transform lives by investing in the vision of a healthier future for our communities. We believe where you live should not play a major role in your health and well-being. Texas Health Community Hope works to proactively address health disparities and the social and environmental conditions that affect overall health.

Texas Health Community Impact (THCI), a division of Texas Health Community Hope, invests in local organizations that join forces to creatively tackle barriers impacting a community's health and well-being. This outcomes-focused approach seeks to address health disparities identified as social [determinants of health](#) in specific ZIP codes. THCI's aim is to help identify and innovatively address the root cause of health disparities before they develop into poor health outcomes. Considered upstream, these approaches combat health inequities by implementing solutions to reduce the negative impact of social determinants of health.

For the 2025-2026 grant cycle, THCI is investing a total of \$5 million in grants across its five regions, which spans nine counties.

Groups seeking to work collaboratively on upstream approaches to address priorities identified in each region are encouraged to apply for this competitive funding opportunity.



Proposed solutions should align with the Texas Health Community Health Improvement guiding principles:

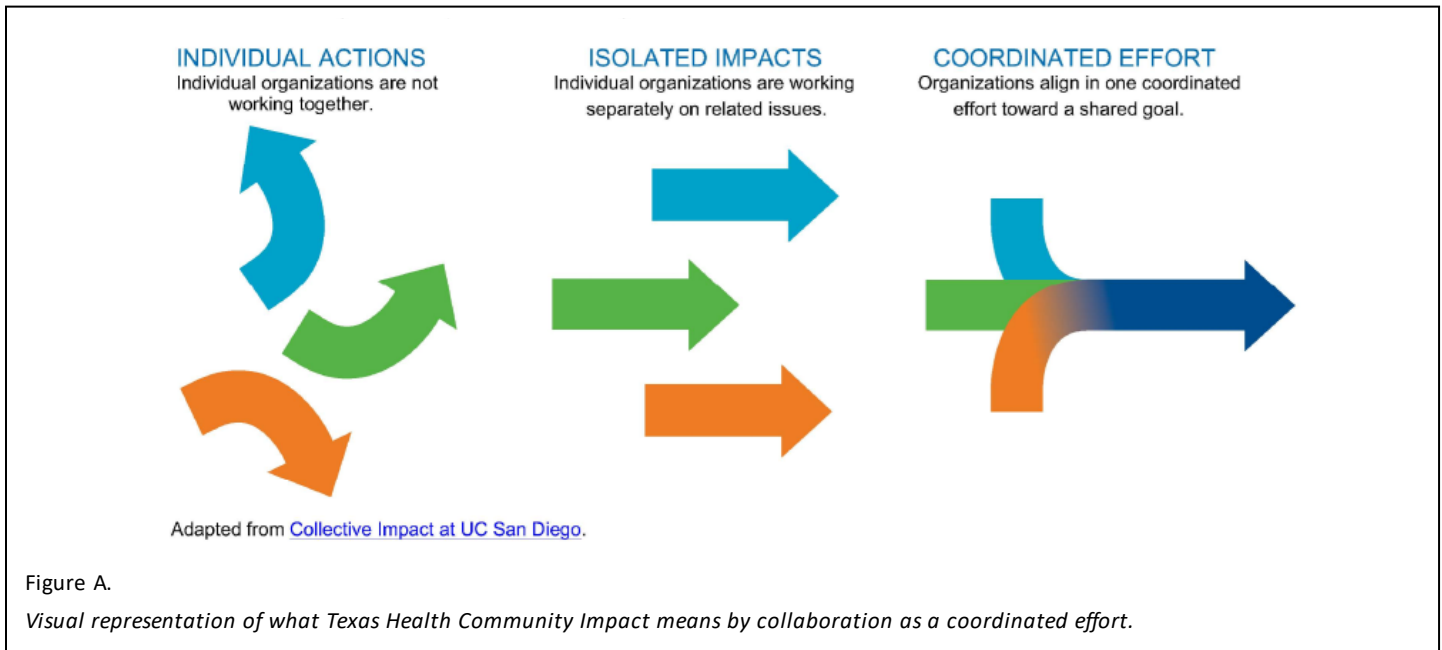
- View our communities through a health equity lens
- Use data to target underserved populations
- Meet people where they live, work, play, and pray
- Facilitate care for the whole person
- Innovate

KEY REQUIREMENTS

Applications must fulfill three key requirements: (1) Demonstrate a collaborative effort between two or more organizations, (2) Propose an innovative approach, and (3) Align with strategic priorities.

Collaboration

Collaboration means working together to address systemic problems with the community and equity at the center. According to the National Network for Collaboration, approaches that “bring individuals, agencies, organizations, and community members” together to generate solutions for current and emerging problems collectively are at the core of collaboration. Collaborative approaches integrate service offerings, building meaningful connections between agencies to eliminate gaps in community services. As indicated in Figure A on page 2, collaboration involves multiple organizations aligning efforts and working collectively toward a shared goal.



Each proposed collaboration will identify a lead organization to submit the proposal for funding, coordinate project activities, manage budget/finances, oversee reporting, and serve as the primary point of contact with THCI.

Lead agencies are encouraged to partner with organizations that possess strong local ties to the community.

Innovation

According to the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI), public health innovation is the development and/or implementation of a novel process, policy, product, or program leading to improvements that impact health and equity. Innovations can range from incremental to radical to disruptive and may involve:

- Repurposing of a service or process in a new environment or in a new way;
- Addressing the needs of a target population segment with suitable resources;
- Making incremental improvements to a program or process to reach more individuals;
- A new model or idea to transform or revolutionize the sector.

Strategic Alignment

Applicants are expected to detail how the proposed project adequately responds to the strategic priorities identified in the region and fulfills the requirement to serve the target THCI ZIP code areas.

Proposed projects should:

- Focus on reducing the negative impact of social determinants of health for the underserved.
- Incorporate innovative solutions to improve health equity.
- Have a solid implementation plan that considers cultural sensitivities and addresses community needs.
- Clearly demonstrate the level of involvement and contributions from collaborators, including deliverables and budgetary commitments.
- Identify opportunities for Texas Health to engage through volunteering, education, or other.

THCI SOUTHERN REGION-SPECIFIC CONTENT

THCI Southern Region 2025-2026 Grant Cycle Opportunity

For Erath and Johnson Counties, the Texas Health 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment identified “mental health” and “access and navigation” as health priorities. Instead of making one large investment in one collaborative to address these needs in innovative and efficient ways, the THCI Southern Region seeks to award several short-term planning grants with deliverables to guide the collaboratives and ignite opportunities for innovative thinking (Phase One).

Upon review of each Phase One collaborative’s 10-pronged plan coupled with an independent quality assessment (also included in Phase One), the THCI Southern Leadership Council will award one or two implementation grant(s) per county to collaborative(s) to put their innovative plan for addressing mental health and social determinants of health into action (Phase Two).

Additional Background for the Quality Assessor Role

During the previous THCI Southern Region grant cycle, Texas Health made a foundational investment in capacity and collaboration in Erath and Johnson Counties. It is now time to build off this foundation and assess the quality of each collaborative with consideration of the unique makeup in each county. An independent quality assessor with experience in measuring collaboration is desired to assess how each collaborative navigates activities to successful completion of their 10-pronged plan.

THCI Southern Region 2025-2026 Grant Cycle Details

Geographic Areas of Greatest Need

- ❑ Erath County: 76401, 76402, 76446 (Dublin, Lingleville, Huckabay, Morgan Mill, Stephenville)
- ❑ Johnson County: 76031, 76033, 76059, 76093 (Cleburne, Keene, Rio Vista)

Phase One Program Goal: Collaboratively develop an innovative 10-pronged plan to address mental health—such as decreasing perceived stress or increasing resiliency—and social determinants of health for a target population within the geographic areas of greatest need.

- **Program Objective 1:** By June 1, 2025, the collaborative develops an innovative 10-pronged plan that includes the following:
 1. Within the geographic areas of greatest need, use data to determine the target population, such as caregivers/guardians of all ages, veterans, youth (ages 10-19)
 2. For this target population, identify how the collaborative will innovatively address
 - Mental health—such as decreasing perceived stress or increasing resiliency—and

Phase One Logistics

- Request for Proposals: June 15 to Aug. 1, 2024
 - Two to four planning grants awarded to community collaboratives
 - One collaboration quality assessor grant awarded to an independent organization
- Grant timeframe: Jan. 1 to June 30, 2025

- Social determinants of health by increasing access to (choose two or more)
 - Affordable transportation
 - Financial education
 - Addiction prevention and/or support
 - Healthcare insurance
 - Caregiver/guardian support and/or education
 - Healthy food
 - Counseling
 - Social activities, such as art/music experiences, exercise classes, support groups
 - Education enhancement services, such as resume building and/or tutoring

3. Define the program goal(s), proposed outputs and outcomes, and measures—including progress measurement—and identify potential metrics and collection methods for program evaluation
4. Define how the collaborative will work together to achieve the program goal(s)
5. Identify how sustainability efforts will be integrated throughout the project
6. Written agreement for commitments of the collaborative with signatures from each organization
7. Communication plan to promote the program
8. Program logic model—including a mental health measurement tool
9. Workplan
10. Budget

- **Program Objective 2:** By June 1, 2025, an independent organization assesses the quality of each collaboration as they develop their innovative 10-pronged plan to collaboratively address mental health and social determinants of health.

Phase Two Program Goal: Address mental health—such as decreasing perceived stress or increasing resiliency—and social determinants of health for a target population within the geographic areas of greatest need by continuing to strengthen a collaborative approach.

Out of the Phase One grantees, the THCI Southern Leadership Council will award Phase Two funds based on the score of each collaborative’s innovative 10-pronged plan and the independent organization’s assessments on the quality of each collaboration.

Phase Two Logistics

- Phase One deliverables are due June 1, 2025
- Phase Two funding decisions are finalized by June 16, 2025
- Phase Two grant timeframe: July 1, 2025, to Dec. 30, 2026

EXPECTATIONS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Fulfill MOU Requirements. Lead applicants of awarded collaboratives and THCI will execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) detailing the following:

- Project Goals, Deliverables, and Outcomes
- Data Sharing Agreement
- Payment Terms
- Reporting Requirements
- Terms and Conditions
- Texas Health Brand Use Agreement

To routinely assess the outcomes and long-term sustainability of grant projects, Texas Health utilizes external grant evaluators to collect data from Grantees regarding their project. The MOU provided by Texas Health will contain a data sharing agreement further outlining the rights to own and access data arising out of your grant project. Please note that by accepting grant funding from Texas Health, you agree to cooperate with and facilitate transfer of Project related data to our external evaluator. Texas Health reserves the right to change or remove an external evaluator at any time with notice to the Grantee.

Engage with THCI. Lead applicants and respective collaborators should be open to the following engagement opportunities with the THCI team:

- Receiving technical assistance from the THCI Program Manager—including but not limited to regular touch base calls (and as needed), guidance on budget changes or project adjustments, and connections to enhance outcomes.
- Participating in learning opportunities either convened or facilitated by Texas Health.
- Hosting at least one site visit to highlight progress to key stakeholders associated with THCI.
- Presenting the collaborative approach and/or results at meetings convened by or with Texas Health.

ELIGIBILITY

Project Implementation. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to begin implementing activities within four months of the execution of the MOU. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Prior Applicants. Organizations that applied for a previous THCI grant cycle and were not awarded are eligible to apply. Organizations previously funded as lead agency for two cycles are not eligible to apply under this funding opportunity.

The following is a non-exclusive list of potential lead organizations that may be eligible to apply:

- State, county, city, or township governments
- Independent school districts
- Public or state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Public housing authorities
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS

Of note, hospital systems can be a part of a collaboration but cannot serve as the lead applicant.

FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

The following expenses are not allowable:

- Indirect costs exceeding 10% of the total collaborative direct costs. Indirect costs are expenses that do not relate to a specific intervention or service such as overhead, utilities, accounting, and rent support.
- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Capital expenses, construction projects, and purchase of large equipment. Mission critical equipment purchases may be considered and must be approved by THCI
- Fundraising activities or event sponsorships
- Direct delivery of reimbursable healthcare services
- Grants or scholarships to individuals
- Advertising reimbursement of pre-award costs
- Lobbying activities, including publicity or propaganda, preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

All proposals must be submitted through <https://www.texashealth.org/Apply>.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please note: The lead applicant will submit one proposal on behalf of the collaborative.

2025-2026 Grant Cycle Proposal Timeline

Date(s)	Activity	Details
June 15, 2024	RFP Released	Submit applications through the Texas Health Resources grant e-Portal at https://www.texashealth.org/Apply .
June 15, 2024 – July 24, 2024	Q&A Period	Questions will be accepted by the THCI team during this period via THCI-grants@texashealth.org . Please include your proposal title and region in the subject line. Questions will not be accepted after 4 p.m. CDT on July 24, 2024. Webinars will also be available regionally. Additional information can be found at https://www.texashealth.org/RFPInformation .
Aug. 1, 2024	Submission Deadline 3 p.m. CDT	The submission period will close at 3 p.m. CDT on Aug. 1, 2024 . Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline. <i>Applicants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the e-Portal to avoid missing the deadline.</i>
Aug. 1, 2024 – Nov. 1, 2024	Review Process	All submissions will be reviewed, and applicants may be asked to respond to clarifying questions about their proposals.
Dec. 6, 2024	Grant Award and Onboarding	Notification of grant awards is expected to occur by Dec. 6, 2024. Recipients of grant awards will be required to attend an onboarding session and meet with their assigned THCI Program Manager in January 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Questions regarding this RFP will be accepted via email to THCI-Grants@TexasHealth.org until **4 p.m. CDT on July 24, 2024**. Please use the email subject line “*THCI RFP Questions*” and indicate which region(s) you are inquiring about.
- A Q&A section on the THCI website will be updated **each Wednesday between June 15 and July 24**: <https://www.texashealth.org/RFPInformation>.
- On June 15, 2024 Texas Health will post the dates for informational webinars, which will provide an overview of the application process and requirements for the THCI 2025-2026 grant cycle.
- Live region-specific Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions will take place in July.
- Information about previously funded projects can be found on the THCI website: <https://www.texashealth.org/Community-Health/Community-Impact>

THCI SOUTHERN REGION-SPECIFIC CONTENT

Community Collaborative Proposal Questions

1. Quick Pitch (1,000 word maximum)

Tell us:

- Who is part of your collaborative? Please identify the organizations.
- What is your geographic area of focus? Please refer to the Geographic Areas of Greatest Need.
- Thinking of Phase One Program Objective 1:
 - What are your collaborative’s initial thoughts for a target population?
 - What are your collaborative’s initial thoughts for addressing mental health—such as decreasing perceived stress or increasing resiliency?
 - What are your collaborative’s initial thoughts for addressing social determinants of health? Please refer to the list provided in Phase One Program Objective 1.2.

2. **Collaborative Insight: Background, Communication and Creativity (1,000 word maximum)**
 - a. For the collaborative, list each organization, the Key Personnel and their role with their organization. Key Personnel are individuals who are essential to implementing and carrying out the responsibilities of the project.
 - b. Tell us why the collaborative is interested in this grant opportunity.
 - c. Tell us about your collaborative's history of working together. If this is a new collaboration, tell us the inspiration for joining forces.
 - d. Tell us your initial thoughts on your collaborative's communication methods and frequency.
 - e. Tell us about your initial thoughts on how your collaborative will seek inspiration for innovation.
 - f. With the understanding that this grant includes a third-party collaboration quality assessor, tell us about your experience(s) measuring success.
3. **Measures and Impact (500 word maximum)**
 - a. Describe how you will work as a collaborative to develop your 10-pronged plan.
 - b. State the goal(s) for your collaborative. Use the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) or SMARTIE (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely, Inclusive, Equitable) format.
 - c. Provide your collaborative's initial thoughts on targets for each goal and how they will be measured.
 - d. Describe how the collaborative will work with the third-party collaboration quality assessor to make changes in response to constructive feedback.
 - e. Describe what "small wins" and "big wins" mean to your collaborative, and how you will measure them.
Note: If awarded a Phase Two grant, THCI's third-party evaluator will assist in elaborating on key metrics and collection methods for evaluation.
4. **Attachments/Uploaded Items**
 - a. Workbook with Budget and Logic Model for Phase One Program Objective 1.
 - Download the workbook template from the [e-Portal](#), then
 - Complete and upload your workbook to the application form in the [e-Portal](#).
 - b. Letter of Commitment – Include one letter of commitment with signatures from all collaborators.

Community Collaborative Proposal Responsiveness

Proposal responsiveness will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. **Need and Opportunity Aligns with Priorities and is Collaborative (25%)**
Strategic alignment with community needs and THCI priorities. Demonstrated engagement with diverse, capable organizations in the collaborative and initial plans for engaging with the third-party collaboration quality assessor. An unclear connection to the region's priorities will not score highly.
2. **Potential for Collaborative Impact (25%)**
The proposal uses SMART or SMARTIE goals to outline initial thoughts on the collaborative's targets. The Management Center has some great resources on writing SMART and/or SMARTIE Goals. Please visit their site for more information and printable worksheets, <https://www.managementcenter.org/resources/7-tips-getting-started-goal-setting/>.
3. **Potential for Innovation (25%)**
Thinking of Phase One Program Objective 1, the collaborative proposes inclusion of actions for inspiration of innovative or novel approaches. Collaboratives seeking to continue or simply expand existing services will not score well.
4. **Potential for Soundness of Collaboration (25%)**
Thinking of Phase One Program Objective 1, the collaborative proposes realistic targets, timeline, and budget.

Quality Assessor Proposal Questions

1. **Quick Pitch (500 word maximum)**
 - a. Describe your proposed project and the anticipated impact on the Phase One collaborative's ability to achieve their 10-pronged plan. Keep in mind that there is potential for three to five collaborations from each county.
2. **Capacity and Qualifications (500 word maximum)**
 - a. Describe your prior experience in measuring collaboratives.
 - b. List your key personnel for this project and define the role and responsibilities of each member of the quality assessor team. Indicate their time commitment (% of time), and their primary function.
 - c. Be explicit as to why your organization is uniquely qualified to do this work.
3. **Proposed Project (1,000 word maximum)**
 - a. Describe how you will measure success with the Phase One collaboratives.
 - What validated tool(s) and processes will your organization use to measure success within the collaboratives?
 - Describe your plan for having the tool(s) and measures ready to launch at the beginning of the Phase One grant, including education for the collaboratives.
 - Share how you will measure progress, including how you will score or scale components to evaluate the collaboratives.
 - b. In alignment with the Phase One grant timeframe, describe how you will involve the collaboratives and educate them on your findings, including frequency of assessments and communication plan.
 - Share how you will help the collaborative develop self-awareness of their baseline and progress in collaborative efforts. For example, was the collaborative able to make adjustments based on quality assessment feedback?
 - c. For the Phase One Program Objective 2 deliverable, describe how you will make recommendations to the THCI Southern Leadership Council to inform their decision for awarding the Phase Two collaborative(s), including an assessment of learnings per county.
4. **Measures and Impact (500 word maximum)**
 - a. Describe how you will assess the collaborative efforts in navigating and completing each portion of the required 10-pronged plan. Specify progress measurement plans and methods.
 - b. State the goal(s) for your project. Use the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) or SMARTIE (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely, Inclusive, Equitable) format.
 - c. Provide proposed outputs and outcomes for each goal and explain how they will be measured.
5. **Attachments/Uploaded Items**
 - a. Workbook with Budget and Logic Model for Phase One.
 - Download the workbook template from the [e-Portal](#), then
 - Complete and upload your workbook to the application form in the [e-Portal](#).
 - b. Letter of Commitment – Include one letter of commitment with signatures from any collaborators beyond the lead organization, if applicable.

Quality Assessor Proposal Responsiveness

Proposal responsiveness will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. **Need and Opportunity Aligns with Priorities and is Collaborative (25%)**

Strategic alignment with community needs and THCI priorities. Demonstrated engagement with Phase One collaboratives.
2. **Potential for Impact (25%)**

SMART or SMARTIE goals outline expected outputs, outcomes, and demonstrate potential to impact the Phase One Program Objective 1 collaboratives. The Management Center has some great resources on

writing SMART and/or SMARTIE Goals. Please visit their site for more information and printable worksheets, <https://www.managementcenter.org/resources/7-tips-getting-started-goal-setting/>.

3. Potential for Innovation (25%)

Use of innovative or novel practices and approaches.

4. Soundness of Project (25%)

Strong, realistic implementation plan, targets, and timeline. Clear vision for how goals and outcomes will be achieved. Demonstrated capacity to launch proposed activities immediately following the executed grant agreement. Evidence of appropriate staffing, partnerships, and budget.

RIGHT TO REJECT

Texas Health reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals submitted
- Request additional information from any or all applicant organizations
- At their sole discretion, conduct discussions with any applicant organization to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to the RFP requirements

Applicant organizations will not be reimbursed for the cost of developing or presenting a proposal in response to this RFP. For administrative purposes, proposals must be submitted through Texas Health's grant [e-Portal](#). Submission of the proposal does not constitute an obligation to fund. All proposals will be reviewed, and finalists determined solely as described in this RFP.