

State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Summary Information

Awarding Agency Name	Public Health
Agency Contact	Alexander J. Smith (alexander.j.smith@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	BZSSP-26
Funding Opportunity Title	Baby-ZZZ Safe Sleep Program (Formerly Preventing Sleep-Related Infant Deaths)
CSFA Number	482-00-1357
CSFA Popular Name	BZSSP
Anticipated Number of Awards	3
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$300,000
Award Range	\$0 - \$100000
Source of Funding	Federal and State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	
Posted Date	07/07/2025
Application Date Range	07/07/2025 - 08/07/2025 : 5.00pm
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://idphgrants.com/Designer/ProgramCtrtCert.aspx?appcd=070130
Technical Assistance Session	



Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

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1. Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Department of Public Health
2. Agency Contact:	Name: Alexander Smith Phone: 312.814.4035 Email: alexander.j.smith@illinois.gov
3. Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4. Type of Assistance	Grant
5. Agency Opportunity	
6. Funding Opportunity Title:	Baby-ZZZ Safe Sleep Program FY26
7. CSFA Number:	482-00-1357
8. CSFA Popular Name:	Safe Sleep Program
9. CFDA Number(s):	93.994
10. Number of Anticipated	3
11. Estimated Total Funding	\$300,000.00
12. Single Award Range:	\$100,000.00
13. Funding Source: Mark all that apply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14. Is Cost Sharing or Match	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15. Indirect Costs Allowed? Restrictions on Indirect Costs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction: §75.101(3)(d)(1)
16. Posted Date:	7/8/2025
17. Application Date Range: Leave the 'End Date' and 'End Time' empty if there is no deadline.	Start Date: 7/7/2025 End Date: 8/7/2025 End Time: 5:00 PM
18. Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date and time: Monday 7/21/2025; 11am-12pm Conference Info/Registration Link: https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=ma965fe23c2b0c528d060737bb5d40887

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Program Description

Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) are defined as deaths that occur suddenly and unexpectedly in infants less than 1 year of age, and whose cause of death are not immediately obvious. Ultimately, these cause of SUID may be due to suffocation, asphyxia, entrapment, infection, ingestions, metabolic diseases, cardiac arrhythmias, trauma (accidental or non-accidental), or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). SUID is the 3rd leading cause of infant mortality in Illinois and the overall SUID rate in Illinois has remained steady since 2000. During 2020, 111 babies died from SUID before their first birthday. Infants born to non-Hispanic Black women are four times as likely to die from SUID as infants born to non-Hispanic White women; SUID is one of the largest contributors to the inequity in overall infant mortality between Black and White infants in Illinois. Furthermore, not only is SUID is more common among Infants born to non-Hispanic Black women, but also, it is more common among residents of the city of Chicago and urban counties outside the Chicago metro area; infants born to women younger than 25 years of age; and infants born to women who have had at least one other child.

The Baby-ZZZ Safe Sleep Program seeks to partner with maternal and child health community stakeholders to expand community-based promotion of safe sleep practices and employ a risk reduction approach to improve sleep environments for all Illinois infants. Proposals emphasizing practices and resources that are culturally appropriate to populations at greatest risk of experiencing SUID can earn up to 3 bonus points during the scoring process. See [IDPH 2024 Infant Mortality Report](#) for additional information.

Program Objectives:

- Leverage the State of Illinois' messaging campaign to promote consistent and inclusive safe sleep messaging.
- Increase awareness about infant safe sleep practices and provide risk reduction education and training for parents, caregivers, and early childhood professionals such as home visitors, family case managers and other community-based health care providers. Trainings/education may include, but are not limited to, maternal stress, breastfeeding promotion, smoking cessation and sleep environments. Identify social determinants of health and other barriers to safe sleep practices amongst families in the community, and adopt culturally relevant resources/approaches to address these barriers (e.g., cribs, pack-n-plays, co-sleepers, sleep sacks).
- Employ risk reduction approaches that will acknowledge families' existing practices and provide additional opportunities to improve sleep environment and other safe sleep practices. All proposals shall include a discussion of how the proposed activities will be monitored and evaluated.

Successful Applicants will be expected to provide data demonstrating the impact of each activity on its community of focus. In addition, all successful applicants will be expected to provide plans on how activities will be sustained in the future, absent IDPH grant funding.

For this current application cycle, bereavement activities and hospital healthcare provider training are not eligible for funding.

Community Baby Showers focused on safe sleep are permitted provided shower participants will be engaged through strategies that fall under one or more of the other objectives.

B. Funding Information

This award is utilizing ☒ federal pass-through, ☒ state and/or ☐ private funds.

C. Eligibility Information

Regardless of the source of funding (federal pass-through or State), all grantees are required to register with the State of Illinois through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) website, <https://gata.illinois.gov/>, complete a prequalification process, and be determined "qualified" as described in Section 7000.70. Registration and prequalification is required before an organization can apply for an award.

The entity is "qualified" to be an awardee if it:

1. has an active UEI (Unique Identity ID) number;
2. has an active SAM.gov account;
3. has an acceptable fiscal condition;
4. is in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, if the Illinois Secretary of State requires the entity's organization type to be registered. Governmental entities, school districts and select religious organizations are not required to be registered with the Illinois Secretary of State. Refer to the Illinois Secretary of State Business Services website: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business_services/home.html;
5. is not on the Illinois Stop Payment List;
6. is not on the SAM.gov Exclusion List;
7. is not on the Sanctioned Party List maintained by HFS.

1. Eligible Applicants

Each grantee is eligible to apply for up to a total of **\$100,000** for the one-year grant period.

Allowable Costs Include:

Staff salary, fringes, travel expenses, conference fees, equipment, supplies, direct administrative costs, contractual services, printing costs, etc.

*Interest payments, charitable contributions are not allowable expenses

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Local health departments
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Rural health centers
Community-based organizations with 501-C3 status

This grant program is competitive, and funding is limited. Awards will be based on scores and available funding. It is important to note that all applicants may not receive an award. The cap amount is the highest award that may be provided, award amounts are determined based on the score given during merit review, number of eligible applicants, and scope of services provided. Please note that all awarded applicants will have an opportunity to adjust their submitted budgets after awards are made to edit the total request.

3. Indirect Cost Rate

n/a

Annually, each organization receiving an award from a State grantmaking agency is required to enter

the centralized Indirect Cost Rate System and make one of the following elections for indirect costs to State and federal pass-through grants:

- I. Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA);
- II. Election of the de minimis rate;
- III. Election not to charge indirect costs; or
- IV. Negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois.

The awardee shall make one election or negotiate a rate that all State agencies must accept unless there are federal or State program limitations, caps or supplanting issues.

4. *Other, if applicable*

Administrative costs are capped at 10% of your total budget. These are necessary and reasonable costs needed to administer the grant that are not related to the direct provision of services.

Allowable costs include:

- Accounting, budgeting, financial and cash management
- Procurement and purchasing
- Personnel and property management
- Payroll, audit and general legal services
- Oversight and monitoring of administrative activities
- Developing information systems and procedures related to administrative functions

D. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package*

Applications must be submitted via the Illinois Department of Public Health's Electronic Grants Administration and Management System (EGrAMS), accessible at idphgrants.com.

Since high-speed internet access is not yet universally available for downloading documents or accessing the electronic application, and applicants may have additional accessibility requirements, applicants may request paper copies of materials by contacting:

Alexander Smith; alexander.j.smith@illinois.gov

2. *Content and Form of Application Submission*

The application format is provided via EGrAMS as mandated for all Illinois Department of Public Health Grants. The application MUST be completed in its entirety. This includes submission of all mandatory forms required for all agencies.

Please note that "Instructions" boxes appear on screens throughout the EGrAMS online application, and it is suggested that you click on these for additional guidance and tips for completion.

You MUST submit a completed application including all required documents via EGrAMS by the deadline no extensions will be given.

3. *Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)*

Each applicant, unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)), is required to:

- i. Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, this link provides a connection for SAM registration: <https://sam.gov/SAM/>
- ii. provide a valid UEI in its application; and
- iii. continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan

under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency.

The State awarding agency may not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the State awarding agency is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the State awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

4. *Submission Dates and Times*

See 17 on Page 1 of this NOFO.

5. *Intergovernmental Review, if applicable*

n/a

6. *Funding Restrictions*

All grant funds must be used for the sole purposes set forth in the grant proposal and application and must be used in compliance with all applicable laws. Grant funds may not be used as matching funds for any other grant program unless specifically allowed under grant program guidelines. Use of grant funds for prohibited purposes may result in loss of grant award and/or place the grantee at risk for repayment of those funds used for the prohibited purpose. Regardless of the source of funding (federal pass-through or State), all grant-funded expenses must be compliant with Cost Principles under Subpart E of 2CFR200 unless an exception is noted in federal or State statutes or regulations.

Allowability

Allowable – All grant funds must be used for items that are necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient performance of the grant and may only be used for the purposes stated in the grant agreement, work plan, and budget. Items must comply with all applicable state and federal regulations.

Allocable – Grant-funded costs must be chargeable or assignable to the grant in accordance with relative benefits received. The allocation methodology should be documented and should be consistent across funding sources for similar costs.

Reasonable – The amounts charged for any item must be reasonable. That means the nature and amount of the expense does not exceed what a prudent person under the same circumstances would expend; and that the items are generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the performance of the grant.

Allowed Uses

Funding may be used for the following:

The Grantee will expend funds awarded under this agreement in accordance with the budget approved and on file with the Department. Departmental approval of a budget, including subcontractors or subgrantees, does not constitute written consent for the use of such services. The Grantee will not commingle funds between separate grants or subgrants, even if the grants or subgrants are related or the same population is being served.

Prior Approval ONLY

With prior approval, funding may be used for the following:

Funding Use Prohibitions

Funding may NOT be used for the following:

The Grantee and any approved subgrantees or subcontractors shall not expend any funds for promotional items. Promotional items include, but are not limited to: calendars, pens, buttons, pins, magnets, gift cards, posters, and stationery. State of Illinois Grant Awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs, construction, or indirect costs.

Additional Funding Guidance

7. Other Submission Requirements

E. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Strategies should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely, Inclusive and Equitable (SMARTIE), and the outcomes and measurements should be aligned with the stated activities.

Specific – Make your goals specific and narrow for more effective planning.

Measurable – Define what evidence will prove you're making progress and reevaluate when necessary

Achievable – Make sure you can reasonably accomplish your goal within a certain timeframe.

Realistic – Your goals should align with your values and long-term objectives.

Timely – Set a realistic end date for task prioritization and motivation.

Inclusive – It includes those most impacted—into processes, activities, and decision/policy-making in a way that shares power.

Equitable – It includes an element of fairness or justice that seeks to address systemic injustice, inequity, or oppression.

In addition, the following components must be submitted by all applicants to be considered for funding:

- Applicant Organization Information
- Applicant Grant History
- Grant Project Proposal (Scope of Work)
- Staff and Organizational Experience (Scope of Work)
- Program Work Plan
- Budget Justification
- Applicant Certification
- W-9 Form
- Key Personnel Resumes

In addition to the Health Equity Checklist points, applications will be scored based on the following categories:

- **Scope of Work: 66 points** - (Community need; Applicant capacity; Target audience clearly defined; Detailed activities; Monitoring and evaluating activities)
- **Work Plan: 25 points** – (Activities, outcomes and measurements are provided and aligned with program goals and objectives; Information provided in the SMARTIE format)
- **Budget: 10 points** - (Budget reasonable and justified)

2. Review and Selection Process

- **At least one grantee will be selected from the Chicagoland area; at least one grantee will be selected from the St. Clair or surroundings counties; and at least one from the Winnebago or surrounding counties.**
- If there are no applicants from one or more of the areas listed above, the highest scoring applications will be awarded in their place.
- Applications require a minimum of 70 points to be considered for funding.

Applications will be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria listed above. *Decisions to fund a grant are based on:*

- *The strengths and weaknesses of the applications as identified by reviewers;*
- *Availability of funds; and*
- *Applicant's previous grant funding and complying with required reporting (i.e., progress reports, final reports, and expenditure reports), if applicable.*

Merit-Based Review Appeal Process

For competitive grants, only the evaluation process is subject to appeal. Evaluation scores or funding determinations/outcomes may not be contested and will not be considered by the Department's Appeals Review Officer.

To submit an appeal, the appealing party must:

- Submit the appeal in writing and in accordance with the grant application document through IDPH's Merit-Based Review Appeal Request Form available here:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ed4d113385de41feb38964a8005ce72b>
- Appeals must be received within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice was published.
- Appeals must include the following information:
 - The name and address of the appealing party
 - Identification of the grant
 - A statement of reasons for the appeal
 - If applicable, documents or exhibits to support statement of reason

The IDPH Appeals Review Officer (ARO) will consider the grant-related appeals and make a recommendation to the appropriate Deputy Director as expeditiously as possible after receiving all relevant, requested information.

- The ARO must review the submitted Appeal Request Form for completeness and acknowledge

- receipt of the appeal within 14 calendar days from the date the appeal was received.
- The ARO will utilize an Appeal Review Tool to consider the integrity of the competitive grant process and the impact of the recommendation.
- The appealing party must supply any additional information requested by the agency within the time period set in the request.
- The ARO shall respond to the appeal within 60 days or supply a written explanation to the appealing party as to why additional time is required.

Documentation of the appeal determination shall be sent to the appealing party and must include the following:

- Standard description of the appeal review process and criteria
- Review of the appeal
- Appeal determination
- Rationale for the determination
- In addition to providing the written determination, the grant-making office may do the following:
 - Document improvements to the evaluation process given the findings and re-review all submitted applications.
 - Document improvements to the evaluation process given the findings and implement improvements into the following year's grant evaluation process.
 - Provide written notice to the appealing party as to how the identified actions will be remedied.

Appeals resolutions may be deferred pending a judicial or administrative determination when actions concerning the appeal have commenced in a court of administrative body.

3. *Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable.*

Anticipated Announcement Date (if known): 8/21/2025
 Anticipated Program Start Date: 7/1/2025
 Anticipated Program End Date: 6/30/2026

F. Award Administration Information

1. *State Award Notices*

Upon completion of the submission and review process, each successful grantee will receive a grant agreement to be signed by the entity's authorized official. The grant agreement is not binding on the parties until it has been fully executed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

A Notice of State Award (NOSA) shall be issued to the finalists who have successfully completed all grant award requirements and have been selected to receive grant funding. The NOSA will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from applicable pre-award risk assessments.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is exempt from utilizing the standard NOSA issued on the GATA Grantee Portal. Successful applicants will receive an email notification from EGrAMS and must review the funding terms and specific conditions in the grant agreement and accept utilizing an electronically signature. Both the electronic signature in EGrAMS and a physical signature on the grant agreement must be completed by an authorized representative of the grantee organization and submitted to IDPH.

A Notice of Denial shall be sent to the applicants not receiving awards via EGrAMS.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See Section C.3 Indirect Cost Rate and Section F.1 State Award Notices above.

All grantees receiving one or more federally-funded subawards from IDPH equal to or greater than \$30,000 must provide compensation information within EGrAMS prior to issuance of an award. Grantees will not be able to sign grant agreements or amendment agreements until this requirement is complete. Annual completion of this requirement is necessary for multiyear grants.

3. Reporting

All grantees are required to submit reports on time as required by the Department.

Quarterly progress reports shall be submitted quarterly to the Department, electronically in the format required by the Department. Monthly financial reports are due the 15th day of the following month (Jan. 15th, Feb. 15th, etc.). Grantees may be asked to provide additional reporting as required by the funder.

Failure to submit required reports in a timely manner will result in holding reimbursements and may affect future funding to the grantee.

G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Alexander J. Smith

Illinois Department of Public Health

115 S LaSalle Street, 7th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Telephone: 312.814.4035

E-mail: Alexander.J.Smith@illinois.gov

H. Other Information, if applicable

Mandatory Forms -- Required for All Agencies

- 1. Uniform State Grant Application – Available at idphgrants.com for eligible applicants**
- 2. New to EGrAMS, click [HERE](#) to see how to Get Started**
- 3. Project Narrative (included in EGrAMS application)**
- 4. Budget (included in EGrAMS application)**
- 5. Budget Narrative (included in EGrAMS application)**

Other program-specific mandatory forms:

Organization W-9;

Resumes for key personnel included under Personal Services in the budget; and
Subcontractor agreements, as applicable