

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

Awarding Agency Name	Public Health
Agency Contact	Lisa Masinter (Lisa.masinter@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	BEISG-25
Funding Opportunity Title	Birth Equity Innovation Seed Grants
CSFA Number	482-00-3475
CSFA Popular Name	BEISG
Anticipated Number of Awards	4
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$4,000,000
Award Range	\$0 - \$1000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	10/18/2024
Application Date Range	10/18/2024 - 12/02/2024 : 5.00PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://idphgrants.com/user/home.asp
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : Yes Date : 11/04/2024 : 12:30PM Registration link : https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m3ae2f54f470fe9cd3379de578ec531f1



Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

1. Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Department of Public Health
2. Agency Contact:	Name: Lisa Masinter Phone: 312/814-1884 Email: lisa.masinter@illinois.gov
3. Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4. Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5. Agency Opportunity Number:	BEISG-25
6. Funding Opportunity Title:	Birth Equity Innovation Seed Grants
7. CSFA Number:	482-00-3475
8. CSFA Popular Name:	Birth Equity Innovation Seed Grants
9. CFDA Number(s):	N/A
10. Number of Anticipated Awards:	≥4, scoring dependent
11. Estimated Total Funding Available:	\$4,000,000.00
12. Single Award Range:	Up to \$1,000,000
13. Funding Source: Mark all that apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14. Is Cost Sharing or Match Required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15. Indirect Costs Allowed? Restrictions on Indirect Costs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction:
16. Posted Date:	
17. Application Date Range: Leave the 'End Date' and 'End Time' empty if there is no	Start Date: October 18, 2024 End Date: December 2, 2024 End Time: 5:00pm CST

18.	Technical Assistance Session:	
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**NOFO Supplemental
(Agency-specific Content for the NOFO)**

A. Program Description

Birth Equity Innovation Seed Grants

Illinois is an innovative leader in maternal, child, and reproductive health. It was the first state to expand Medicaid to 12 months postpartum, as well as one of the earliest states to implement a robust maternal mortality review committee process to inform evidence-based action at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality. Regardless, Illinois has challenging disparities in perinatal outcomes, like many other states, including maternal and infant mortality, where communities of color are noted to be at disproportionate risk. Additionally, over the past decade, there has been an increasing number of hospitals closing their obstetric units across the state. Community-based perinatal supports have been shown to reduce risk and promote equity for populations at risk for adverse outcomes,^{1,2} and in 2021, Illinois passed legislation allowing for doulas, lactation support, home visitors, and more to receive Medicaid reimbursement. These efforts have begun implementation in 2024.

The purpose of this grant is to support community-based organizations who are performing or planning innovative and community-based work with the goals of reducing inequities in maternal and infant health care and outcomes. The Illinois Department of Public Health (DPH) will provide funding to organizations with authentic ties to communities most impacted by these inequities to establish new programs or to maintain existing programs that implement programming and policies supporting equitable access to maternal care. Successful applicants must demonstrate a clear ability to impact birth equity in communities in the areas of highest need. Examples of goals include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing pregnant and postpartum persons connections to doulas and other support providers.
- Engaging more support providers, including, doulas, lactation support, home visiting, Community Health Workers (CHWs), with State-based programming, including learning collaboratives, or coordinated reimbursement approaches.
- Engaging communities to build awareness of and connect community members with emerging birth equity providers and services.
- Enhancing care coordination (both clinical and non-clinical)

Applicants must complete a narrative with a scope of work that includes the following content:

- Description of the need or justification for the proposed effort, including the specific issue(s)/problem(s) to be addressed and the geographic and community target area(s)
- Detailed project description with key strategies and objectives to address the above issue(s) and serve the noted community area(s)
- Alignment with stated priorities, goals, and values of this NOFO

¹ Safon CB, McCloskey L, Gordon SH, Cole MB, Clark J. Medicaid Reimbursement for Doula Care: Policy Considerations from a Scoping Review. *Medical Care Research and Review*. 2023;0(0).

² Van Eijk MS, Guenther GA, Jopson AD, Skillman SM, Frogner BK. Health Workforce Challenges Impact the Development of Robust Doula Services for Underserved and Marginalized Populations in the United States. *J Perinat Educ*. 2022 Jul 1;31(3):133-141.

- Background and the history of the organization, areas of expertise, familiarity, capacity, and years of connection to the community area
- Expected challenges or limitations and a description of how the applicant will mitigate them
- A list of subgrantees, if any, and a description of their specific areas of expertise, as well as any subject matter experts or other stakeholders that would be significantly advising and/or collaborating on the strategies outlined in the application
- Evaluation plan: description of how applicant will evaluate activities to determine success
- Sustainability plan: description of how applicant will approach the need for ongoing financial and technical support for activities after grant cycle ends

Applicants are required to submit a workplan delineating objective, activities, deliverables and measures using the SMARTIE framework: Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable. Applications should have at least three objectives in the workplan. More information about the SMARTIE framework can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/pdf/smartie-objectives-508.pdf>

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. Grant funds are to be used to facilitate successful engagement of organizations with the State who are doing or planning innovative, community based, work with the objectives of reducing inequities in access to and outcomes in maternal health care, grant fund uses may include but not limited to:

- Activities to increase pregnant and postpartum persons connection to doulas and other support providers for maternal care
- Engagement of support providers (doulas/lactation support/home visiting/CHW) with State based programming, including learning collaboratives or coordinated reimbursement approaches.
- Engaging communities to build awareness of and connect community members with emerging birth equity providers and services.
- Enhancement of care coordination (both clinical and non-clinical).

Supplies and equipment. Equipment is defined as an item of property that has a per unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more and has an expected service life of more than one year. If it is less than \$5,000 it goes under supplies. Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in Equipment. (e.g., A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is lower than the capitalization level established by the grantee agency or the grant program, whichever is lower, regardless of the length of its useful life.

B. Funding Information

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

This funding opportunity through The Office of Women’s Health and Family Services, will be offered during fiscal year 2025. This grant is anticipated to be for 6 months (January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025).

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**

The successful applicant must demonstrate that they have background and expertise in perinatal/maternal health equity. Additionally, the grantee must have demonstrable ties to communities at higher risk of adverse outcomes and/or partnerships with organizations actively engaged with the community they are serving. The applicant must also be willing to produce reports and any other required documentation that IDPH requests.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching**

\$0.00

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 of 10% of MTDC;

- 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

N/A

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 Lisa Masinter at lisa.mastinter@illinois.gov.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

The application format is provided via EGrAMS, which must be completed in its entirety. While some of the sections in the application relate specifically to the grant program of interest, many sections must be completed for all grant programs. Those sections include, Applicant Information, Applicant Grant History, Scope of Work, The Work Plan, Grant Budget, Indirect Cost Information, Miscellaneous section (W-9, resumes, job descriptions, a Risk Assessment and the Applicant Certification). Therefore, it might be helpful for your Agency to prepare standard responses for those sections. 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.

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.

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:

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 your grant agreement, work plan, and budget.

Supplies and equipment. Equipment is defined as an item of property that has a per unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more and has an expected service life of more than one year. If it is less than \$5,000 it goes under supplies.

Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in Equipment. (e.g., A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is lower than the capitalization level established by the grantee agency or the grant program, whichever is lower, regardless of the length of its useful life.

Prior Approval ONLY

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

Funding Use Prohibitions

Pre-award costs are not allowed.

Additional Funding Guidance

N/A

4. Other Submission Requirement

N/A

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.

7. Other Submission Requirement

N/A

E. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

The successful applicant must demonstrate that they have background and expertise in perinatal/maternal health equity. Additionally, the grantee must have demonstrable ties to communities at higher risk of adverse outcomes and/or partnership with an organization doing community engaged work. The applicant must produce reports and any other required documentation.

Applicants must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>, at the time of the grant application.

Organizations on the Illinois Stop Payment List and/or the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application submission will not be considered for an award.

SCORING CRITERIA

Description of the work proposed and the targeted community			
<p>Need What data is presented that indicates alignment with the priorities of this NOFO? Does the applicant provide data, facts, and/or evidence that demonstrate that the proposal supports the grant program purpose?</p>	<p>Work Plan</p>	<p>Does the applicant provide data, facts, and/or evidence that demonstrate that the proposal supports the grant program purpose?</p> <p>Does the applicant provide a detailed plan of the method to describe the evaluation plan and how they will measure success?</p>	<p>10</p>

<p>Capacity and Community Competence Does the applicant demonstrate its ability to execute the grant project according to project requirements?</p>	<p>Scope of Work</p>	<p>Does the applicant describe the need for this effort within the community (or communities) the organization serves, including the specific issue/problem to be addressed, how it will address birth equity, and proposed benefits for the State?</p> <p>Has the applicant demonstrated how they will explore and plan for sustainability after the grant period concludes?</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Quality Does the applicant demonstrate that the project, in total, is well articulated and in alignment with the project goals?</p>	<p>Work Plan</p>	<p>Is there a detailed description of the project, the deliverables that will be achieved by the end of this funding, how these deliverables align with the stated priorities, goals, and values of the NOFO, and any anticipated challenges (and how the applicant responded) to meeting those deliverables?</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>Clearly Defined Scope of Work Are target audiences clearly defined and realistic?</p> <p>Has the organization had previous successful experience serving this community?</p> <p>Does the leadership of the organization reflect the demographics of the community?</p>	<p>Scope of Work</p>	<p>Does / the applicant describe the organizational Background, expertise, and capacity to ensure success of this NOFO. Do they explicitly describe experience working with the proposed target population and community engagement, as well as any proposed collaborators?</p> <p>Does the applicant explain how this project will benefit the population to be served including how the activities/strategies will address health equity?</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>SMARTIE Are objectives using a SMARTIE framework: Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable</p>	<p>Work Plan</p>	<p>Did the applicant complete the required workplan using the SMARTIE framework for objectives: Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable? https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/pdf/smartie-objectives-508.pdf</p>	<p>10</p>

Justifiable Budget Are the budget items and justifications valid and appropriate for the grant project?	Budget	Does the budget align with the objectives of the grant and seem reasonable and achievable?	15
Health Equity Checklist		Score as per IDPH health equity checklist rubric	35
TOTAL POINTS			100

2. **Review and Selection Process**

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.

12/9/24

Anticipated Announcement Date (if known): 12/9/2024
 Anticipated Program Start Date: 1/1/2025
 Anticipated Program End Date: 6/30/2025

4. State Award Notices

12/9/24

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.

5. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

N/A

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.

6. Reporting

Four quarterly reports and a final report will be required.

F. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Lisa Masinter, MD, MPH, MS, FACOG
Deputy Director
Office of Women's Health and Family Services
Illinois Department of Public Health
Email: lisa.masinter@illinois.gov
Cell: 312-814-1884

G. Other Information, if applicable

N/A

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 (found in EGrAMS and required to complete):

-Scope of work/Work Plan