

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

Awarding Agency Name	Public Health
Agency Contact	Jorge De La Fuente (jorge.delafuente@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	COCSF-2027
Funding Opportunity Title	Communities of Color Special At Risk Population
CSFA Number	482-00-0931
CSFA Popular Name	COCSF
Anticipated Number of Awards	5
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$400,000
Award Range	Not Applicable
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	07/01/2026
Application Date Range	07/01/2026 - 07/31/2026 : 5.00pm
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... <a href="https://idphgrants.com/user/home.aspx?Mode=Logout">https://idphgrants.com/user/home.aspx?Mode=Logout</a>
Technical Assistance Session	



**Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

	Data Field	
1.	<b>Awarding Agency Name:</b>	Illinois Department of Public Health
2.	<b>Agency Contact:</b>	Name: Jorge De La Fuente Phone: 217-557-0846 Email: jorge.delafuente@illinois.gov
3.	<b>Announcement Type:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	<b>Type of Assistance Instrument:</b>	Grant
5.	<b>Agency Opportunity Number:</b>	N/A
6.	<b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b>	Communities of Color Special At Risk Population 2027
7.	<b>CSFA Number:</b>	482-00-0931
8.	<b>CSFA Popular Name:</b>	COCSPP-2027
9.	<b>CFDA Number(s):</b>	N/A
10.	<b>Number of Anticipated Awards:</b>	5
11.	<b>Estimated Total Funding Available:</b>	\$400,000
12.	<b>Single Award Range:</b>	N/A
13.	<b>Funding Source:</b> Mark all that apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	<b>Is Cost Sharing or Match Required?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15.	<b>Indirect Costs Allowed?</b>  <b>Restrictions on Indirect Costs?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction:
16.	<b>Posted Date:</b>	7/1/2026
17.	<b>Application Date Range:</b> Leave the 'End Date' and 'End Time' empty if there is no deadline.	Start Date: 7/1/2026 End Date: 7/31/2026 End Time: 5:00 pm
18.	<b>Technical Assistance Session:</b>	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: TBD Conference Info/Registration Link: TBD

## Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

### A. Program Description

Communities of Color Special At Risk Population: This initiative is funded through State of Illinois general revenue funding, and funds HIV prevention, education, testing, and care programs focused on communities of color – specifically programs with the capacity to reach special at risk minority populations to include, but not limited to groups at most risk for HIV infections, people experiencing homeless, ex-offenders, sex workers, those with a history of mental illness or substance abuse, and other difficult to reach populations. These specific efforts are necessary due to the unique problems many of these individuals may face that place them at greater risk for HIV disease.

For the Communities of Color Special At-Risk Populations program, racial and ethnic minorities include African Americans, Alaska Natives, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

Additionally, due to the diversity of Illinois residents, providers must be engaged in implementing The National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care. The National CLAS standards are intended to advance health equity, health care access, and quality, all while helping to eliminate health care disparities. Providers should develop a blueprint for individuals and healthcare organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services. More information on the National CLAS standards can be found here: <https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas>.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is committed to addressing health by empowering communities who have not received the same access to essential health care. Historically, there have been populations that have faced barriers to health care access and health care support. This grant seeks to help lift those barriers and create access to vital and necessary health care. Successful applicants should demonstrate and ensure that services are administered to those that are underserved, socially disadvantaged, and come from ethnically diverse groups, regardless of sexual or gender identity. The services provided should be both culturally and linguistically appropriate. Applicants should demonstrate any services provided by sub-grantees are similarly accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

### B. Funding Information

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

The Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services is requesting proposals from local not-for-profit organizations and units of local government within the boundaries of Illinois that have the capacity to provide, or partner with entities that can provide, outreach and education, health screenings, and direct services to communities of color.

Direct service refers to the act of providing active service/assistance to individuals, specific groups, and communities that make up the beneficiary population. Direct service may entail face-to-face contact with clients, individually or in group settings. **Agencies funded to provide services must provide these services themselves or provide services in collaboration with another agency and have referral linkage agreements in place to provide additional screening(s) and other clinical referral services.**

The goal of this funding is to reduce the rate and disproportionate burden of infection rates within the

specified communities. Specifically, programs with the capacity to reach special at-risk minority populations to include, but not limited to, groups most at-risk for HIV infection, people experiencing homelessness, ex-offenders, sex workers, those with a history of mental illness or substance abuse, and other difficult to reach populations.

Successful applicants will demonstrate proven ability to work with vulnerable communities and provide services in an environment that is non-threatening, using evidence-based approaches that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, and tailored to ensure relevance to the circumstances and conditions of the specified population. This includes prevention, education, testing, and care.

The grant term will be July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, with the option for two renewals. Awards are based on availability of funding and contingent upon appropriation and allocation each year, including in year one. Additionally, renewals are based on successful completion of grant activities as outlined in the work plan and grant agreement.

### **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](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**

Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, voluntary organizations, organizations serving youth, organizations serving ethnic populations, local health departments, and collaborative efforts of government and community-based organizations.

Only organizations based in Illinois are eligible to compete for these funds. Applicants must be in good standing with the Grant Accountability & Transparency Act Unit operating under the Governor's Office of Management & Budget (<https://omb.illinois.gov>). Successful applicants will have completed the GATA Pre-Qualification information and the Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (Internal Controls Questionnaire – ICQ).

#### **2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

N/A

#### **3. Indirect Cost Rate**

Illinois Department of Public Health - Office of Performance Management

Indirect costs are applicable up to 15% but not required.  
Instructions regarding the application of an indirect cost rate may be found at [www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/CentralizedIndirectCostSystem/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/CentralizedIndirectCostSystem/Pages/default.aspx).

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.

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:

- V. Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA);
- VI. Election of the de minimis rate;
- VII. Election not to charge indirect costs; or
- VIII. 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***

Applicants, especially first-time grantees, are encouraged to complete the grant management training modules available through the GATA Learning Management System at [gata.illinois.gov/training.html](http://gata.illinois.gov/training.html).

### **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](http://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:

Jorge De La Fuente, MBA  
Public Service Administrator  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
535 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761  
Phone: 217-557-0846  
Email: [jorge.delafuente@illinois.gov](mailto:jorge.delafuente@illinois.gov)

#### **2. *Content and Form of Application Submission***

Applicants will utilize the IDPH EGrAMS system to submit their grant application.

Illinois Department of Public Health - Office of Performance Management

### Applicant's Scope of Work

- Successful applicants will demonstrate detailed grant activities that meet the standards for the program as noted within this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and demonstrate SMART objectives for HIV prevention, education, testing and care programs within at-risk populations during the term of this grant program.
- A grant Work Plan must be included with the grant application, specifically regarding planned efforts for targeted awareness, education, and targeted intervention for prevention such as testing or care program efforts. This Work Plan must identify specific targeted communities and populations to be served by this grant and include explanation of how identified health disparities, health inequities or social determinants of health within the target geography will be addressed.

### Grant Budget

- If the application Budget includes the use of grant funds for “rent” the applicable rental agreement must be attached to the application.

### Certifications

#### Attachments:

- Applicant organization’s IRS W-9 form
- Applicant organizational chart and Board of Directors or other legally responsible corporate leadership body
- Applicant organization’s Programmatic Risk Assessment
- Documented communication with regional HIV prevention lead agency (see 7. Other Submission Requirements below).

### **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.

July 1, 2026 – August 3, 2026, by 5:00 pm

**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:

Personnel Services (Staff Salaries), Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment <\$5,000, Supplies, Contractual Services, Occupancy – Rent & Utilities, Training & Education.

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. It is expected that administrative costs, both direct and indirect, will represent a small portion of the overall program budget. Any budget deemed to include inappropriate or excessive administrative costs will not be approved. Program budgets and narratives must detail how all proposed expenditures are necessary for program implementation.

**Prior Approval ONLY**

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

**Funding Use Prohibitions**

Funding may NOT be used for the following:

1. Any expense for political or religious purposes.
2. Contributions or donations.
3. Fundraising or legislative lobbying expenses.
4. Payment of bad or non-program related debts, fines, or penalties.
5. Contribution to a contingency fund or provision for unforeseen events.

6. Membership fees to organizations or associations.
7. Entertainment, food, alcohol beverages, or gratuities.
8. Interest or financial payments or other fines or penalties.
9. Purchase or improvement of land, or purchase, improvement, or construction of a building.
10. Any expenditure that may create a conflict of interest, the perception of a conflict of interest, or impropriety.
11. Audit expenses.
12. Incentive items intended for advertisement (e.g., promotional goods distributed to advertise for an Organization).

All grant funds must be used for the sole purpose 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 another grant program, even if the grants or subgrants are related or the same population is being served. Regardless of the source of funding, all grant-funded expenses must be compliant with Cost Principles under Subpart E of 2CRF200 unless an exception is noted in federal or state statutes or regulations.

### **Additional Funding Guidance**

#### **7. Other Submission Requirements**

All applicants must inform their regional HIV prevention lead agency of their interest in participating in the Initiative and provide documentation with their application. Confirmation of the award and award amount must be provided to the lead agency upon selection with documentation of that notification provided to the Center for Minority Health Services. A list of HIV Lead Agencies can be found here <https://hivcareconnect.com/refer/>.

Key staff members must have a minimum of two years of experience conducting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV interventions with the proposed HIV special at-risk population and provide documentation of that experience with the application.

Grantee organization and key staff members must demonstrate the capacity to successfully provide services to members of the proposed HIV special at-risk population.

Grantee must have documented proof of appropriate linkage agreements, and an explanation as to how these collaborators will contribute to the overall accomplishment of project description and objectives. Documentation of successful completion of training in any identified diffusion of evidence-based intervention (DEBI) must be provided for key staff members. For a list of CDC approved interventions please visit [Effective Interventions by EHE Pillar | HIV Partners | CDC](#).

Grantee organization and key staff members must provide documentation of ability to provide HIV counseling and testing services if those services are a component of the application. Documentation should include proof of the completion of an Illinois Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Section approved HIV course, or the completion of a Chicago Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS approved HIV course. Organizations must also demonstrate they have the fiscal/organizational capacity to administer and implement all proposed activities and tasks.

#### **E. Application Review Information**

Applications will be reviewed and scored by IDPH program staff for completeness and accuracy as well as the criteria identified below (see Section E.1).

**1. Criteria**

Applicants must demonstrate they have the background and expertise to carry out activities as described in this NOFO. Upon submission, applications will be reviewed for completeness and consistency with program parameters. Applications will then be scored out of 100 points as follows:

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Application Location</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Capacity</b> Does the applicant demonstrate its ability to execute the grant project according to project requirements?	Scope of Work	15
<b>Need</b> 1. Does the applicant provide data, facts, and/or evidence that demonstrate that the proposal supports the grant program purpose? 2. Does the applicant demonstrate that the project, in total, is well articulated and aligned with the project requirements? 3. Are target audiences clearly defined and realistic?	Scope of Work	20
<b>Quality</b> Is there a complete summary of methods and procedures that will be utilized to accomplish goals stated in the scope of work?	Work Plan	15
<b>SMARTIE</b> Are objectives using a SMARTIE framework: Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-Bound, Inclusive, and Equitable	Work Plan	20
<b>Justifiable Budget</b> Are the budget items and justifications valid and appropriate for the grant project?	Budget	30
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		100

**2. Review and Selection Process**

Only completed applications with all required materials will be reviewed. Review teams will consist of at least three individuals, with the number of review teams dependent upon the number of applications received. Applications scoring 70 or above will be considered for an award, with the highest scoring applications recommended for funding.

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): [Click or tap to select a date.](#)

Anticipated Program Start Date: [Click or tap to select a date.](#)

Anticipated Program End Date: [Click or tap to select a date.](#)

## **F. Award Administration Information**

### **1. State Award Notices**

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**

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.

### **3. Reporting**

Successful applicants will be required to submit financial and performance reports on a monthly basis by default. However, applicants may be required to or may opt to submit reports monthly. Specific reporting requirements will be detailed within the terms of each grant agreement. Reports may include the demographic and geographic indicators of individuals receiving direct service(s) from the grantee through activities funded under the grant program.

Report narratives and Work Plan outcomes shall accompany these metrics and include details regarding program impacts upon or influences on social and structural determinants of health for individuals, specific groups, and communities that make up the beneficiary population.

## **G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

Jorge De La Fuente, MBA

Public Service Administrator

Illinois Department of Public Health

Phone: 217-557-0846  
Email: jorge.delafuente@illinois.gov

**H. Other Information, if applicable**

N/A

**Mandatory Forms -- Required for All Agencies**

1. Uniform State Grant Application – Available at [idphgrants.com](http://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:

N/A