



Health Forward
FOUNDATION

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ADVOCACY COALITIONS | 2023



ADVOCACY COALITIONS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Health Forward is announcing a new funding opportunity to advance civic engagement and support coalitions and collective advocacy. We will award up to \$1.5 million in grants to be distributed in 2023 and 2024.

Organizations with shared interests form coalitions to pool and leverage often limited resources to achieve a common goal. Coalitions are one effective medium for collective advocacy. Health Forward recently released its two-year policy agenda for [Kansas](#) and [Missouri](#). Our policy agenda represents our advocacy goals and priorities that we, in partnership with the communities we serve, identified to advance our purpose and achieve our mission.

While Health Forward engages in direct advocacy and lobbying aligned with our policy agenda and purpose plan, we understand that the voices and interests of people are best expressed by the people themselves – and organizations that are closer to their lived experiences.

This opportunity aligns closely with Health Forward's Civic Engagement funding opportunity. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Health Forward's Purpose

Every day we work to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.



KEY INFORMATION

Purpose Area: Power with a focus on Policy and Advocacy

Strategy: Increase civic engagement in democracy

Deadlines

- April 7, 2023: Open letter of intent due at noon
- May 1, 2023: Invitation to submit additional information
- May 31, 2023: Additional information due at noon
- July 2023: Grants will be awarded in early July

Grant term: Up to 24 months

Grant type: Health Forward is aiming for most grants to be unrestricted. However, we may make some grants that are restricted to a specific purpose or restricted to a specific budget on a case by case basis.

Our purpose plan: Our work is guided by our purpose plan; our four purpose areas – People, Platform, Place, and Power; and our related strategies and initiatives. This grant opportunity relates to our Power purpose area and specific strategy to increase civic participation in democracy. For more information on our purpose plan, and our Power strategies and initiatives, please visit our [website](#).



CONNECT WITH US!

We strongly encourage you to speak with a Health Forward team member before submitting your letter of intent. Want to discuss this opportunity with us? [Connect](#) with an impact strategist (formerly program officer) or request a [consultation](#).



WHY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT?

Health Forward acknowledges civic engagement as one of many social factors that influence the health of people and communities.

Civic engagement has the power to advance health equity, racial equity, and economic inclusion. In 2020, the American Medical Association recognized racism as a significant threat to public health. This was an important step to build awareness around how racism and systemic oppression in the United States have shaped our history and caused severe health injustice in our communities.

In addition, in June 2022, the American Medical Association further acknowledged voting as a social determinant of health due to the positive relationship between civic engagement and health outcomes. Historically, voter suppression has disproportionately impacted communities of color and people who are paid low or no wages, placing barriers between citizens and their right to vote.

Research has demonstrated strong connections between voting and civic engagement and the health of people and communities. Civic engagement is a powerful tool to provide voice to those who are closest to the issues in need of solutions and can shape policies that address community needs.



FUNDING PRIORITIES

While all organizations meeting the eligibility criteria for this grant opportunity are encouraged to apply, we will prioritize coalitions or membership organizations that collectively advocate in one or more of the following areas:

- Reducing health disparities and increasing access to care
- Telehealth/telemedicine equity and access
- Access to safe, quality, and affordable food, as medicine and preventive health care
- Organizations that advocate for community health workers, including, but not limited to, their certification and reimbursement under Medicaid
- Culturally relevant health care
- Diversification of the health sciences workforce
- Broadband internet access, equipment affordability and accessibility, and digital literacy skills
- Affordable, quality housing and pathways to achieving and maintaining equitable and affordable homeownership
- Voting rights and the freedom for people to pursue legislative and constitutional changes through initiative petitions and ballot initiatives

Organizations that do not fall within one of these prioritized areas are encouraged to apply and provide a description of how their work relates to and advances Health Forward's [Kansas](#) and [Missouri](#) policy agenda.

Please reach out to us to talk about your specific fit.

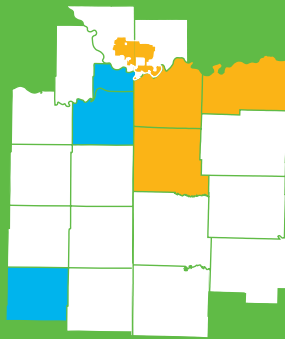
OUTCOMES WE SEEK

Health Forward has identified specific outcomes related to Power, which are relevant to this funding opportunity:

- Increased effectiveness of community organizing and civic participation
 - Increased scale of community organizing and civic participation
 - Increased voter registration and turnout in targeted districts
 - Adoption of policies that promote civic participation

Health Forward anticipates collaborating with funded partners to identify specific ways to understand the impact of our work together.

HEALTH FORWARD SERVICE AREA



KANSAS

Allen County
Johnson County
Wyandotte County

MISSOURI

Cass County
Jackson County
Lafayette County
Kansas City, Missouri
(including portions of
Clay and Platte counties)

Note: Health Forward will not fund organizations, projects, or advocacy focused on electing or opposing candidates for elected office.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Health Forward Foundation has generally applicable eligibility criteria that must be met by all applicants for all our funding opportunities. These criteria are available on our [website](#). We also encourage you to review [frequently asked questions](#).

To be eligible for this grant opportunity, the applicant must:

- Work within communities that align with Health Forward's communities of focus, such as:
 - People or groups who have been historically marginalized and excluded from power and political processes
 - Organizations that are led by and/or serve people of color
 - Organizations that are located in and/or serve rural communities
- Work in parts of Health Forward's Service Area – Wyandotte, Johnson and Allen counties in Kansas and Cass, Jackson, and Lafayette counties in Missouri, as well as all of Kansas City, Missouri, including portions of Clay and Platte counties

ADVOCACY COALITIONS FUNDING

APPLICATION PROCESS

The first step in the process is to submit a letter of intent by noon on **April 7**. This is meant to give a brief overview of your organization's work and alignment with this funding opportunity. Based on this information, some applicants will be selected to move forward in our funding process.

We strongly encourage you to consult with us before submitting your letter of intent. You can also submit a request for a [consultation online](#).

Begin a letter of intent by accessing our [grantee portal](#). A Word document template is included with this funding announcement, which you can use to prepare your letter of intent. New applicants will need to set up an account through our [grantee portal](#). If you need assistance, contact our grants administration team at grantsadmin@healthforward.org or 816-241-7006.

NEXT STEPS

Following the letter of intent submission, our impact strategists (formerly program officers) will begin to review letters of intent. During this period, we may follow up with you for additional information to better understand your letter of intent.

We will invite some applicants to move forward in our process and submit additional information. Unfortunately, due to limitations in our funding and our desire to be respectful of applicants' time and resources, not all applicants will be invited to continue in our process. If we move your letter of intent to the next phase of our process, some additional information will be requested by noon on **May 31**. Shortly after this period, we will undergo a final review phase, and we may follow up with any remaining questions to help deepen our understanding of your work.

ADVOCACY COALITIONS FUNDING

HEALTH FORWARD SUPPORT

This funding opportunity will allow Health Forward to support coalition work to directly represent the interests of their membership and the communities they serve through our provision of:

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

Advocacy work can be expensive and requires dedicated staff, paid contractors, or outsourced elements, such as messaging, evaluation, translation, legal and ethical advice, or other advocacy related expenses. Additionally, other examples of activities or expenses Health Forward would support include conference attendance and professional learning opportunities.

LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Through this grant opportunity, Health Forward will offer funded partners the opportunity to participate in learning and networking with other coalitions and activists in our service area and beyond from peer organizations and local, regional and national experts in advocacy work. Grantees will have access to a learning network to include resources and trainings from national advocacy, ethics, legal, government affairs and other consultants, and peer organizations active in policy and advocacy work.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Health Forward would like to support coalitions and collective advocacy organizations make requests to corporate, government and philanthropic funders for resources. These organizations might need assistance with their tax status or grant writing to improve their likelihood for a funding award, or these organizations might need the support of a fiscal sponsor.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Concurrent with this funding opportunity is another opportunity focused on civic engagement. You can find additional information on our [website](#). The timeline is identical to this opportunity, and interested organizations will complete the same letter of intent to express interest in one or both funding opportunities.

2.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Health Forward will release information about capacity building funding for organizations doing Power work later this spring. Check back with your impact strategist later this year.

3.

RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

We will be funding some individual responsive grant requests, including for technical assistance and other organizational needs. An inquiry form will be available on our [website](#) later this spring. Check back on our website to learn more.

Keep up to date on our Power work and never miss a funding opportunity by subscribing to our [email newsletter](#).



DEFINITIONS

Here's what we mean when we say...

Health Forward has developed a [glossary of terms](#) to create shared understanding internally and externally with partners. This includes terms commonly used by Health Forward and relevant to this funding opportunity, such as: capacity building, civic engagement, community engagement/participation, community organizing, equity, power, racial equity, and small/grassroots organizations.

Specific to this funding opportunity, we have a few additional terms not included above:

ADVOCACY COALITION

People and organizations with a shared overall policy goal who organize themselves to suggest specific policies and work to affect the policymaking process to those with the ability to change policy in favor of the coalition's shared policy goal.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

A group of people engaging in shared learning, best practices, and solving a set of problems around a topic of interest to fulfill individual and group goals.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

Also known as core support, core operating support, or unrestricted funds, these sorts of dollars allow organizations the flexibility to take care of day-to-day operations or expenses, as well as investing in building organizational infrastructure for the long term.

STRATEGIC LEARNING

Using evaluative methods to help groups/coalitions learn rapidly to be flexible and adaptive with strategy and tactics to achieve better outcomes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA)

Providing targeted support to an organization or coalition to help improve or build the capacity of an organization in a given area.

ABOUT HEALTH FORWARD

Health Forward Foundation is a nonprofit conversion foundation formed in 2005. Every day we work to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.

Healthy people need healthy communities. We recognize that racial equity and economic inclusion overlap. We cannot have one without the other. We also recognize that our effort to build racial equity and economically just systems commits us to changing the education, health, and political systems that make up our society. These changes mean healthier people, an increase in community power, and creating equitable and just places.

We invite you to learn more about Health Forward Foundation by visiting our [website](#).