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Request for Proposals: Healing Illinois

RFP Release Date: October 2, 2023

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through December 1, 2023 or until budgeted funds are expended. Review deadlines are October 20, 2023, November 10, 2023 and December 1, 2023 at 11:59 PM Central Standard Time.

Applications received by October 20, 2023 will be reviewed and notified by October 30.

Applications received by November 10, 2023 will be reviewed and notified by November 20.

Applications received by December 1, 2023 will be reviewed and notified by December 11.

Information Sessions (Open to all Regions)

1. October 12, 2023 | 11:00am - 12:15pm | [Register Here](#)
2. November 1, 2023 | 9:00am - 10:15am | [Register Here](#)
3. November 20, 2023 | 9:00am - 10:15am | [Register Here](#)

Overview

Healing Illinois is a racial healing initiative of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), in partnership with The Field Foundation of Illinois, designed to distribute \$4.5 million in grants to organizations across the state to begin or continue the work of racial healing. The time for Healing Illinois is now. The ongoing oppressive and structural tactics that uphold systemic racism and inequities have highlighted the need for racial healing, and the need to address the underlying systems that have created the conditions where vast racial disparities are allowed to exist. As we move ahead with the work of systemic change, we must also lay the groundwork for community healing, acknowledging the harm done to communities of color and providing the space for healing. Healing Illinois represents one step in that process, promoting racial healing for everyone, and advancing racial equity in Illinois.

The goal of Healing Illinois is to build the foundation for long-term racial healing and anti-racism in Illinois. Healing Illinois' intended outcomes are to:

1. Build knowledge and understanding of racial healing and equity in communities across the state
2. Strengthen trust and relationship building among community residents
3. Expand opportunities for communities and individuals to begin to heal from the harms caused by racism
4. Increase awareness and media engagement focused on racial healing and equity

To heal the core of Illinois communities, Healing Illinois has identified four funding priorities:

Racial Healing Sustainability: activities designed to build community through knowledge-sharing, deeper interpersonal interactions, and intentional spaces for collective healing. Types of projects may include, but not limited to:

- Projects that build deeper interpersonal interactions through racial healing circles, peace circles, restorative justice practices, etc.

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- Expansion of existing racial healing programs
- Creative artistic activities, including community-wide murals, visual artistic events, exhibitions, storytelling and discussion that advance racial healing.
- Leadership development initiatives for racial healing practitioners, organizers and leaders of color in relation to racial healing, power-building, and community advocacy.

Narrative Change: awareness building of racial healing and justice work to facilitate the engagement, leadership, and activation of residents most impacted by systemic racism. Types of projects may include, but not limited to:

- Workshops to teach community members how to share their personal stories to activate others for systemic change
- Amplify truth narratives of communities most impacted by systemic racism.
- Storytelling programs to build understanding and empathy

Education and Training: enhancing knowledge and understanding of racial healing and justice via training focused on anti-racism, racial equity, racial justice, etc.

Racial Healing Readiness: developing the capacity and early-stage ideas that may lead to new programming and projects with long-term vision to advance racial healing. Types of activities may include, but are not limited to:

- community consultation,
- issues identification and research,
- assessment or feasibility studies for expanding programs and projects,
- increasing group or organizational capacity through specific skills training and/or new tools.

Other Considerations

Applicants are encouraged to consider the following as proposals are developed:

- Community engagement should be a key element to any project and/or activity
- Projects that consider the intersectionality of race with other factors such as age, gender, class, disability, geography, culture.
- Projects that approach racial healing focused on targeted populations such as maternal health, healthy equity, elderly services and care, parent advocacy, and children and youth.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Alignment: Proposed project and corresponding activities align with the four Healing Illinois funding priorities
- Organization capacity: Capability of the applicant organization and its staff to develop and implement the proposed project within the scope and timeframe of the Healing IL initiative
- Project Scope: Projected activities and proposed budget are in alignment with the overall timeframe of the Healing Illinois initiative

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- Outcomes reporting: The application demonstrates the organization’s capacity to evaluate the results of the project.

Technical Assistance Support

Technical assistance support will be provided to sub-grant applicants. The sessions will be designed to support grant applicants in further developing their project ideas. Space is limited. To sign up and to learn more, please visit www.dhs.state.il.us.

Technical assistance sessions will be provided by ChiByDesign, a Chicago-based design firm committed to disrupting and dismantling racism. To learn more about their work and approach, visit chibydesign.com.

Intermediaries

The Healing Illinois team has identified intermediaries for regions 2-5 to support the redistribution of grant funds in these regions. The selected intermediaries have extensive knowledge in grantmaking and established relationships with organizations in these regions. To learn more about how to apply for funding through an intermediary, please visit www.dhs.state.il.us. Please note, organizations can only apply for one Healing Illinois grant. Organizations are not allowed to apply for funding from the Field Foundation and an intermediary. To determine which region the applicants belong to please [click here](#).

Learning Cohorts

Sub-grantees will be required to participate in up to three learning convenings to 1) connect and learn with and from other sub-grantees working on similar projects, 2) support our evaluation process by sharing project learning and updates along the way, and 3) it provides the Healing Illinois team an opportunity to support sub-grant recipients with project implementation along the way.

Eligible Applicants

- Public and private nonprofit community-based organizations subject to 501c3 of the tax code. In addition to the non-profit community-based organizations, eligible applicants are inclusive of units of local government, public school districts, and similar non-profit organizations in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.
- At time of application, applicants must be Grant Accountability and Transparency Act/GATA certified. For more details about GATA certification, visit Illinois.gov/GATA.

Grant Amounts Available and Grant Terms

- Grant funds must be expended by June 30, 2024
- GATA certified organizations may apply for up to \$30,000
- We will consider larger grant requests for collaborative projects involving a network or coalition of organizations. These types of projects would need to abide by the same guidelines and benefit multiple communities and counties. We encourage sub-grant applicants to discuss any proposed collaborative project with the Healing Illinois project team, please contact healingillinois@fieldfoundation.org.

Application Process

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Applicants must complete their application via Field Foundation’s online grant portal provided by Foundant Technologies. To access the application, grant seekers must log in to the grant portal at grantinterface.com/home.

Please note that organizations new to Field Foundation’s grant portal will need to first create an account for their organization. Visit grantinterface.com/home and click “create new account” and follow the prompts.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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All proposals will be reviewed by an external review committee reflective of the State’s diverse communities, subject matter expertise, race, and gender.

Contact Information

For technical questions regarding the grant portal, email grantsupport@fieldfoundation.org.

For programmatic and application content questions, email healingillinois@fieldfoundation.org.

About the Illinois Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services is one of Illinois’ largest agencies, with more than 13,000 employees. Illinois created IDHS in 1997 to provide our state’s residents with streamlined access to integrated services, especially those who are striving to move from welfare to work and economic independence, and others who faced multiple challenges to self-sufficiency. For more information, visit www.dhs.state.il.us.

About The Field Foundation of Illinois

The Field Foundation of Illinois is a private and independent foundation that, along with its strategic funding partners, distributes more than \$6.5 million annually to organizations and leaders working to address systemic issues in Chicago’s most divested communities. The foundation’s mission is focused on centering racial equity to achieve community empowerment through Art, Justice, Media and Storytelling and Leadership Investment. For more information, visit www.fieldfoundation.org.

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