



Kidney Health Equity Community Engagement Award

Purpose

NKF seeks proposals that are primed to influence health equity related to kidney health at a community level. If successful, projects would have a measurable impact in preventing, reducing, or eliminating kidney health disparities and advancing health equity in local communities or populations at risk for and overburdened with kidney diseases. Ideas can include, but are not limited to, addressing solutions to any of the following areas of focus:

- Access to kidney care
- Gaps in education, understanding, and/or awareness of kidney disease
- Access to kidney transplantation
- Improving rates of home dialysis utilization
- Quality of life of people living with kidney disease
- Screening and identification of kidney disease
- Other approaches that address social determinants of health and health disparities among people with kidney disease

Eligibility Criteria

Open to all healthcare professionals, researchers, and multidisciplinary teams affiliated with any health system, academic medical center, FQHC, or any other health care organization in the U.S. serving people with kidney disease. The application must seek to improve access to kidney care, kidney disease management, and patient outcomes.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- **Strength of health equity focus**
 - How will the project increase opportunities for everyone to live the healthiest life possible, no matter where they live, how much money they make, or what their sexual orientation is?
 - How well does the project focus on specific, clearly identified needs in communities experiencing disparities?
- **Innovation in community engagement** – Is the project engaging communities in one or more of these ways:
 - Offers a new take or perspective on a long-running problem
 - Challenges assumptions or cultural practices
 - Takes an existing idea or program and gives it a novel application
 - Applies ideas from other fields
 - Explores how an emerging trend will shape the future
 - Ensures community engagement, participation, and partnership – projects that are inclusive of partnerships with local NKF teams and/or community-based programs will be prioritized.

- **Scalability & Sustainability** – How can this project/intervention be replicated in other communities or states?
- **Alignment with NKF’s mission and vision statements:**
 - Eliminating preventable kidney disease
 - Increasing transplants; eliminating the waitlist
 - Ensuring dialysis patients have full, productive lives

Timeline/Key Dates

- Application period: 1 year grant with the opportunity to apply for a 2nd year
- **Deadline: Monday, February 14, 2022**
- Award begins: July 1, 2022

Funding Amount

- \$75,000 for one year

Percent of Effort

A minimum of 25 percent time on this project should be committed during the term of support.

Terms of Support

Initial support for awards commencing July 1, 2022, will be provided for one (1) year in a total amount of \$75,000. Funds provided by a Kidney Health Equity Community Engagement Award will be administered by the appropriate fiscal department of the investigator’s institution. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits for Principal Investigator, key personnel, and other essential personnel, equipment and supplies, publications and miscellaneous costs, contract services, consortium costs, and travel expenses. Indirect costs of 15% are permitted. These are defined as facility and administrative costs.

Any changes in the budget proposed in the original application or in subsequent amendments must be approved in advance by the NKF. Funds not used within the timeframe approved by the National Kidney Foundation must be returned unless an extension is requested and approved.

Regular updates on the progress of the project are required at least twice during the grant term and more frequently if requested. Any publication of the results of a project supported by the Grant Program must include attribution satisfactory to the National Kidney Foundation.

Other Support

Funding is available to individuals (at any stages of their career) or companies, as long as there is no budgetary overlap with other research support. To assist Grant Review Committee in implementing this policy, the application should list all research projects (either funded or with funding pending) in which the applicant is participating. The budgetary relationship between the proposed Kidney Health Equity Community Engagement Award and any other research funding should be explained.

FORM OF APPLICATION

Completed applications should be submitted electronically at www.kidney.org/researchgrant

Most of the sections of the application do not require explanation. However, the following requirements should be noted:

DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Applicant should provide letter(s) from consultant(s) and/or collaborative partners indicating their willingness to assist in the proposed project and any conditions on such assistance, if applicable.

LAY SUMMARY

A brief (150 words) description of the research that the applicant proposes to undertake should be written as a summary for a lay audience. The summary should include a brief discussion of the proposed project and an indication of its potential impact in preventing, reducing, or eliminating kidney health disparities and advancing health equity in local communities or populations at risk for and overburdened with kidney diseases. Scientific jargon, abbreviations and complex discussions should be avoided.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The research proposal should be divided into the following parts:

Part 1. Project Narrative (limited to 15 pages)

The project narrative is the most important part of the application since it will be used as the primary basis to determine whether your project meets the minimum requirements for an award under this announcement. The project narrative should include a clear and concise description of your project, and we recommend it include the following components:

- 1) Problem Statement – Describe the population of focus, including demographic characteristics, race/ethnicity, characteristics associated with kidney health disparities, and geographic area of focus. Describe the need for the project using qualitative and quantitative data. Describe the current state, including challenges, gaps and opportunities for addressing kidney health disparities.
- 2) Organizational Capacity – Describe your organizations and any proposed partner's experience and expertise in addressing health disparities. Include key personnel and delineate the roles and responsibilities of project staff and partners.
- 3) Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes – Describe your project's proposed goal(s) and major objectives. The objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART). Include projected proximal and intermediate outcomes that can be measured during the project period.
- 4) Project Plan - Provide a detailed summary of activities to be undertaken and how they will assist in achieving the project goals and objectives. Describe how progress will be monitored and tracked. Describe how the project will address kidney health disparities among underserved populations.
- 5) Evaluation Plan – Describe how key personnel and partners will engage in the evaluation of the project's impact on equity.

6) Sustainability Plan – Describe how you will identify key individuals and/or organizations whose support will be required to sustain activities. Describe existing collaborative partnerships with organization that might embed the effort within their routine operations or provide other support for sustaining successful activities.

Part 2. Budget Narrative (limited to 3 pages)

You must submit a budget narrative with detailed budget justification as part of your application. The budget narrative consists of a detailed line-item budget that includes calculations for all costs and activities.

Part 3. Letters of Support (Optional)

Up to three letters of support can be included with the application.

The page limitations for the different parts of the Research Plan are the maximum acceptable. Eleven-point proportional font is the smallest print permitted. An application may be denied review if it exceeds required number of pages or permitted type size.

An Appendix may be used for presenting data tabulation, figures, graphs, submitted manuscripts, abstracts and papers. Any Appendix should not contain further descriptive material.

DEADLINE AND PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted electronically on or before **Monday, February 14, 2022**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by an NKF panel, using outside reviewers who are experts in public health and advance health equity. Successful applicants will be notified in Spring, 2022 and funds will be made available to them effective July 1, 2022. NKF is not able to provide written critiques of applications.

FUNDING AGREEMENT

Successful candidates will be required to execute an agreement that incorporates the terms and conditions of research support from the National Kidney Foundation described in these instructions.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In carrying out its stewardship for the resources devoted to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) research program and to provide feedback to the NKF benefactors who make this research program support possible, it is the policy of the NKF that its membership should be kept informed of the research progress of all grant recipients. By accepting a National Kidney Foundation Grant, the investigator and the grantee institution agree to the following reporting requirements:

The grant recipient will provide a Progress Report written for a lay audience at the end of each year of support.

The grant recipient agrees to provide a reprint of every publication (including abstracts) resulting from research supported by the NKF, even if published after termination of the grant.

Results of research supported by the National Kidney Foundation may be made available to the public through appropriate scientific channels. All publications will bear the following statement: "The work was supported by a National Kidney Foundation Health Equity Community Engagement Award."