

Expanding the Public Health Workforce Grant Opportunity
Questions & Answers

- **Question:** Is there a pathway to obtain a Community Health Worker Certification in six (6) months?
Response: Yes, there are local agencies in RI that provide information and resources on Community Health Worker programs and offer Community Health Worker training courses for certification.
- **Question:** Is the work of grant opportunity to be conducted Statewide or Regions?
Response: This grant opportunity is not focused on specific regions therefore can be considered statewide. Agencies that are awarded Public Health Workforce funding should be prepared to utilize CHW's to conduct a wide range of public health services and supports for targeted populations in underserved and high need communities.
- **Question:** Are the grants expectations that work be conducted in both homes or just community locations?
Response: Work may be conducted in home and/or in the community.
- **Question:** As it relates to the ADRC grant opportunity, is this programs scope of work separate from the work the Point currently does? Will providers be reporting to the Point?
Response: This work will be separate from the work of the ADRC. Grantees will be reporting to Aleatha Dickerson at OHA for the ADRC Public Health workforce.
- **Question:** Why is the deadline for the application such short notice?
Response: Given that the grant opportunity is focused on hiring and supporting a Community Health Worker(s), OHA is looking for concise proposals that include the requirements stated in the document. The anticipated start for this grant is July 1, 2022.
- **Question:** Does this program expire in 2024?
Response: Yes, this program is to expire 9/30/2024. Funding is not guaranteed beyond twenty-seven (27) months: July 1, 2022 –September 30, 2024, or until funds are expended.

- **Question:** Will there be one or multiple awards?
Response: Two (2) grants will be awarded: one (1) for the ADRC Public Health Workforce; and one (1) for the SHIP Public Health Workforce.
 - **Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging and Disability Networks: Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Networks:** This program aims to increase the number of public health professionals within the ADRC/ No Wrong Door (NWD) System network to address the unique needs of adults with disabilities and older adults aged 60 and over and their caregivers through the support of wages and benefits for these professionals.
 - **Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging and Disability Networks: State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP):** This program aims to increase the number of public health professionals within the SHIP network to address the unique needs of Medicare beneficiaries through the support of wages and benefits for these professionals.
- **Question:** Is the award amount listed the total available state-wide?
Response: The amounts listed in this grant opportunity are the maximum for each individual grant. The aggregate funding amount pursuant to each GRANT OPPORTUNITY will be made available for twenty-seven (27) months: July 1, 2022 –September 30, 2024, or until funds are expended.

The funding amounts for the two (2) separate grant opportunities are as follows:

| Program | Funding Amount |
|--|----------------|
| Expanding the Public Health Workforce: Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Network | \$91,473.31 |
| Expanding the Public Health Workforce: State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) | \$105,082.00 |

- **Question:** Are other necessary expenses such as travel reimbursement, office supplies, and supervision time from the Program Director allowable expenses?
Response: Travel, supplies and training expenses for new community health workers may be included in the budget. The funding may only be utilized for new staff to expand capacity.
- **Question:** Can we include the cost for the required certification for the Community Health Worker in the budget line item “Other”?
Response: Yes.
- **Question:** Will OHA share questions and answers from other providers so that we can all learn from that process and have the same information?
Response: Yes.
- **Question:** Are we required to demonstrate Board approval of this application or only if our Board requires such approval be secured prior to submission?
Response: The agency is required to demonstrate Board approval of this application.
- **Question:** Subcontracts are allowed according to this grant opportunity. For the CHW SHIP grant, does that mean that if a subcontractor is used, they must hire a CHW to complete the work?
Response: Yes. In both grant opportunities subcontracts are permitted, provided that their use is clearly indicated in the applicant’s proposal, and the subcontractors proposed are identified in the proposal.
- **Question:** Are there plans to augment grant funding with Medicaid billing for Community Health Worker services?
Response: No, not for this grant opportunity.
- **Question:** Will the CHW only provide SHIP services for clients over age 65 and the disabled community?
Response: The SHIP Public Workforce target audience is Medicare beneficiaries. The duties of the CHW under this grant will have an emphasis on providing COVID-19 information and services.

- **Question:** When OHA changed its invoicing policy from quarterly to monthly, I requested to continue invoicing quarterly for our Title III B, D, and Integrated SHIP grants. OHA allowed this request. Can we request quarterly invoicing for this grant as well?
Response: Agencies are responsible for maintaining electronic documentation as required and submitting invoices each month to OHA. A request to submit invoices quarterly should be emailed to the designated contract manager for each grant opportunity.
- **Question:** A few of the questions in this document reference information very specific to business/ non-profit entities. Do these also apply to me if I am part of a municipality?
Response: No, not all of the questions apply to municipalities. If there are questions or concerns that arise please email those directly to Aleatha Dickerson at Aleatha.Dickerson@oha.ri.gov.
- **Question:** This Request for Proposal (RFP) document states the contract is a 26-month period but the awards from 7/1/2022 to 9/30/24 and this would result in a 27-month contract is this correct?
Response: Yes, the correct amount of time is 27 months. All documents will reflect this change moving forward.
- **Question:** Currently within the state of RI the waitlist for CHW certification is 12 months based on number of trainers and size of class, can the 6 months be waived if staff are on a waiting list?
Response: The length in which a CHW becomes certified by the Rhode Island Certification Board (RICB) depends on the amount of previous work/volunteer experience they have (one of the RICB's requirements is 1000 hours of CHW-related work). A participant may become certified closely after the training has concluded if they have already completed the 1000 hours and additional requirements. If a participant enters the training with very minimal hours of CHW-related work, it will usually take around 3-6 months to complete the 1000 hours before they can submit their application for review. With an anticipated start of July, the awarded grantee should be prepared to begin the scope of work duties once the contracts are approved.
- **Question:** The average hourly pay for a CHW in the state of RI is approximately \$19.45 /hr the current budget amounts would not cover the position for twenty-seven (27) months as salary and fringe alone for the term would be for 1 CHW is \$110,939 approximate, not including any other budgeted item is the budget negotiated. As the current aggregate budget would not cover all expenses associated with RFP.



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Maria Cimini
Director

Response: Funding for this grant opportunity is available for a twenty-seven (27) month grant period 7/1/2022 to 9/30/24 OR until funds are expended. Agencies awarded the grant(s) have the flexibility to use the funds accordingly to accommodate a CHW position(s) and other expenses for a specific period of time within the grant period (i.e. 12 months). Due to limited funds, there is no guarantee funding will be available beyond the indicated amounts and grant period.