

Grant to Prevent Sleep-Related Infant Deaths in Minnesota's American Indian and Black/African American Populations: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The question-and-answer period will be open from April 13, 2026, to May 15, 2026. The final questions and answers will be posted on the website on Monday, May 18, 2026.

1. Can applicants submit applications by mail or e-mail?

No. All applicants **must** submit their application using [the Foundant Portal](#). Instructions for submitting applications using Foundant can be found in the [request for proposal](#) document.

2. Will MDH accept late applications?

No. MDH will not accept late applications. All applications must be submitted by **no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Time, on May 22, 2026**, to the grant interface portal, [Foundant](#). All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications in advance of the deadline to ensure that there is ample time to address any technological issues that may arise. If you have any technical issues uploading your applications in Foundant, please submit an email requesting assistance to Health.InfantMortality@state.mn.us, or call 651-201-3650 before the deadline.

3. If we already have community action teams for another project that meets all of the criteria of your CAT, can we utilize them for this project as it already falls within the scope of their work?

Yes. Existing community action teams (CATs) or organizations with an existing community action team that meet all the requirements outlined in Section 2.2 Eligible Project of this RFP, and meets the CAT structure, chairperson, and membership requirements, are eligible and encouraged to apply. Funding for this project must be used solely to complete the key tasks and deliverables also outlined in Section 2.2 and cannot be used to support or supplement the activities of another CAT project.

4. Will the grantee be required to work on this across the state, or just within the area they reside in? With only 1 grantee? Or would you consider splitting?

Yes. The selected applicant must work across all geographic areas in Minnesota, including Greater Minnesota and the urban/metropolitan areas, to implement grant activities. For example, potential CAT members must be recruited from around the state to ensure that there is adequate representation of American Indians and Black/African American who reside in Greater Minnesota on the community action teams.

As stated in sections 1.2 and 1.3 in the RFP, MDH will fund one organization with the - expertise and capacity to create, manage, and support two CATs for the American Indian and Black/African American populations, respectively under this grant.

5. If members of the ISSLT want to apply, at what point would they need to recuse themselves?

Infant Safe Sleep Leadership Team (ISSLT) members who work for an organization that is applying for this grant must notify MDH as soon as possible so that they can be recused from all ISSLT duties and related activities until after the grant is awarded.

6. We are neither a direct service organization nor a non-profit. Are we eligible to apply?

Section 1.4 of the RFP provides a list of eligible applicants. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, community health boards (CHBs)/local public health, nonprofit organizations, Tribal governments, clinics, hospitals, and institutions of higher learning. In addition, applicants must have state or federal recognition as a formal organization or entity including a Federal Employer Identification Number. All applicants must have an active registration with the Minnesota Secretary of State and have an active Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number. Applicants that do not have state or federal recognition must apply with a fiscal agent.

7. Are Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) eligible applicants for this grant?

Yes. LLCs are eligible to apply for this grant. As stated in #6 above, eligible applicants are not limited to those listed. See Section 1.4 of the RFP.

8. If an organization is a collaborative partner applying for these funds does that disqualify them from having staff as members of the Community Action Teams?

No. Staff of a collaborative partner organization are not disqualified from serving as members of the CATs, providing they meet qualifications as described under Creation of Community Action Teams (Page 9 of the RFP). However, selection of the CATs' membership will be determined in partnership with the MDH, ISSLT, and the awarded applicant.

9. Have changes been made to the budget constraints that were not already shared in the RFP? Specifically for incentives for CAT teams?

No. MDH has not made changes to the budget guidelines that were not already shared in the RFP. All applicants should review and use the budget details discussed under Appendix E, Budget Details and Justification, on page 26 of the RFP to create their budget. Additionally, applicants should refer to Appendix J on page 36 of the RFP for information about potential use of incentives for this grant and MDH requirements.

10. Should stipends for the CAT team members come from the allocated \$10K CAT budget or included in a separate line item?

No. Stipends for CAT members should not come from the \$10,000 that is being required of all applicants to allocate to each of the CATs as part of their budget. These funds must be used by the CATs to implement activities that they prioritize to reduce sleep-related infant deaths in their respective community.

11. Community partner involvement is highlighted and encouraged throughout the RFP, specifically in various key tasks. Is it expected that we work with community partners or can all the work be completed by the awarded contracting agency/collaborative? Asking for budget purposes.

No. The awarded applicant is not expected to work with community partners to complete all tasks and deliverables. Because this project is both statewide and community-focused, the awarded applicant is encouraged to collaborate with community partners.

12. Are we allowed to use community partners to support recruitment, hosting CAT in-person meetings, support facilitation, etc.?

Yes. It is at the discretion of the awarded applicant to determine the types of support and roles to involve community partners in completing tasks and deliverables. The awarded applicant is strongly encouraged to work with the MDH, ISSLT, and the CAT Chairs and Co-chairpersons to further define the role and level of community partnerships in supporting meeting facilitation.

13. What level of technical assistance will the contracted agency/collaborative receive from the STATE if any at all?

MDH will provide technical assistance to the awarded applicant throughout the entire grant period. This includes, but is not limited to, providing feedback on quarterly reports, scheduling and conducting six required check-in meetings and a site visit, and promptly responding to any budget or programmatic concerns or questions that the grantee may have during the grant cycle. See section 2.3 Grant Management Responsibilities for further details.