



Build Back Better Request for Ideas – Frequently Asked Questions

Is it possible to get information on who is interested and joined this webinar so we can network and partner? The organizations that participated in the webinars can be found here - <https://www.cfgb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RFI-Information-Session-Participant-Organizations.pdf>

How much grant money is/will be available throughout this process? Are there any funding ranges an applicant might want to stay within? We currently don't know how much money will be available but we are continuing to fundraise for the WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund. There are no ranges for grants at this point in time.

Must the group of collaborators include public (government), private and nonprofit? All three sectors do not have to be represented, but at least two sectors need to participate in the planning process through the development of the full proposal.

Once RFIs are reviewed would WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund/B3 funders be willing to “connect similar ideas” so organizations can possibly work together? Yes, absolutely. We would prefer they work together to get a better outcome but we will ask for permission before making introductions.

Are there any provisions to ensure that the ideas and plans that are developed remain in the hands of those who developed them, and not given to others to implement? We will be vigilant to prevent that from happening.

Will ideas that involve separate agencies that collectively bring the idea together be considered, if those agencies are bringing different parts of the solution together? Potentially, the agencies would have to achieve some consensus on the goal and determine respective roles in improving the policies and systems around your issue.

Can an organization submit more than one RFI response or be part of other organizations' application? An organization may submit more than one RFI response. However, you should assess your capacity to carry out multiple innovations at once in the case that multiple responses receive planning grants.

Could you elaborate on the idea of innovation within the sector in terms of “internal processes” (like capacity, operations, and administrative processes) versus “external processes” (like program delivery and service reach)? We are not interested in ideas for operational efficiencies within a single organization, but we might be interested if the operational efficiencies have a broad impact across agencies so that several agencies benefit. We are really looking for systems change that ultimately improve outcomes for those you seek to serve.



Should the ideas be more programmatic and engagement-focused or result in built or physical outcomes? The RFI is not for capital projects; we are looking for ideas that change systems.

Will groups of organizations who meet a specific need or serve a specific population be considered? Yes.

Can you please clarify the difference between a planning grant and pilot grant? A planning grant is to help you develop a new idea that you haven't started thinking through yet. A piloting grant is for a group of organizations, which have already worked on an idea, developed a plan and are ready to test it to see how well it works.

If a piloting request is made, will a full proposal also be required by the end of the year? Assuming the pilot has a full plan in place, the goal for the RFI is beta testing. The next step would be to determine what was learned from the pilot. Those lessons learned would form the phase 2 proposal.

Could we submit a planning grant to flesh out a more expansive strategic planning process among multiple organizations aimed at increasing impact (in essence a planning grant to fund better planning)? Yes, if the goal is systems change. You would want to keep in mind that we have a sense of urgency for working in new ways.

Are planning projects limited to planning only during September and October? Yes, this is your time to scope out what you need to do to get the proposal completed with your partners. Full proposals will be due the end of October.

Is it possible to submit an idea that is of no cost with the hope of submitting fully developed project with costs associated in the future? Yes, if you have the capacity to complete the proposal without financial support.

What is the timeframe for idea implementation projects to be completed and how long do you have to spend the funds? Timing will depend on the nature of the project. The purpose of this project is to surface and launch innovation to achieve systems change.

Can you more fully explain what human-centered design means? Fundamentally it means including the voices of people you serve at the very beginning of the ideation process before you design the program. Please see this link for more information ([Link 1](#))



WNY COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

Will you
funding

support
for

improvements and amendments to NYS law and policy? We would certainly consider ideas that encourage policy makers to change rules and policies needed for a long-term recovery.

If an organization is not located within the 8 counties, but their project will serve some of the 8 counties, will that proposal be considered? We are seeking systems changes that make an impact in the 8 counties of WNY.

Can a for-profit umbrella organization, which consists of all nonprofit member agencies, take the role as the lead on behalf of their partner agencies? No, the grantee must be a nonprofit. However, the for-profit entity could be part of a cross-sector partnership.

What, if any, is the role of boards of directors in this process? There is no requirement to involve your board, but good agency management would lead one to believe that your board should understand what you are working on. This may be an opportunity for some board members to use their expertise to help you on the planning team.

Is there an expectation that organizations will have to make a financial commitment in the implementation stage? No.

Is there still an opportunity to discuss "emergency" funding for ideas that have a need to begin sooner than this grant allows? The WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund has concluded 3 phases of emergency funding to over 385 nonprofits throughout the 8 counties. The Fund is now supporting coordinated recovery efforts through the Build Back Better initiative. These may well include innovative collaborative approaches to addressing emergency needs such as PPE and food access.