

# Illinois Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Pilot Initiative – Technical Assistance

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A pilot program for place-based and community-led health equity interventions

Designed and presented by:



# The Health Equity Zone Model

# The Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Model



Long-standing health inequities are fueled by differences in the social, environmental, and economic determinants of health.

**Focus on equity** in public health strategies and interventions (i.e., providing support based on *need* and *circumstances*)

Leverage **local assets and infrastructure** to disseminate public health funding across communities

Structured as **community-engaged collaboratives** that develop into self-sustaining, self-funding entities

Collaboratives develop action plans that address the **social determinants of health**, root causes of health inequities

# What is a Health Equity Zone...?

...a hyper-local geographic area **within existing IDPH regions** where opportunities to address health inequities emerge and investments towards this goal are made.



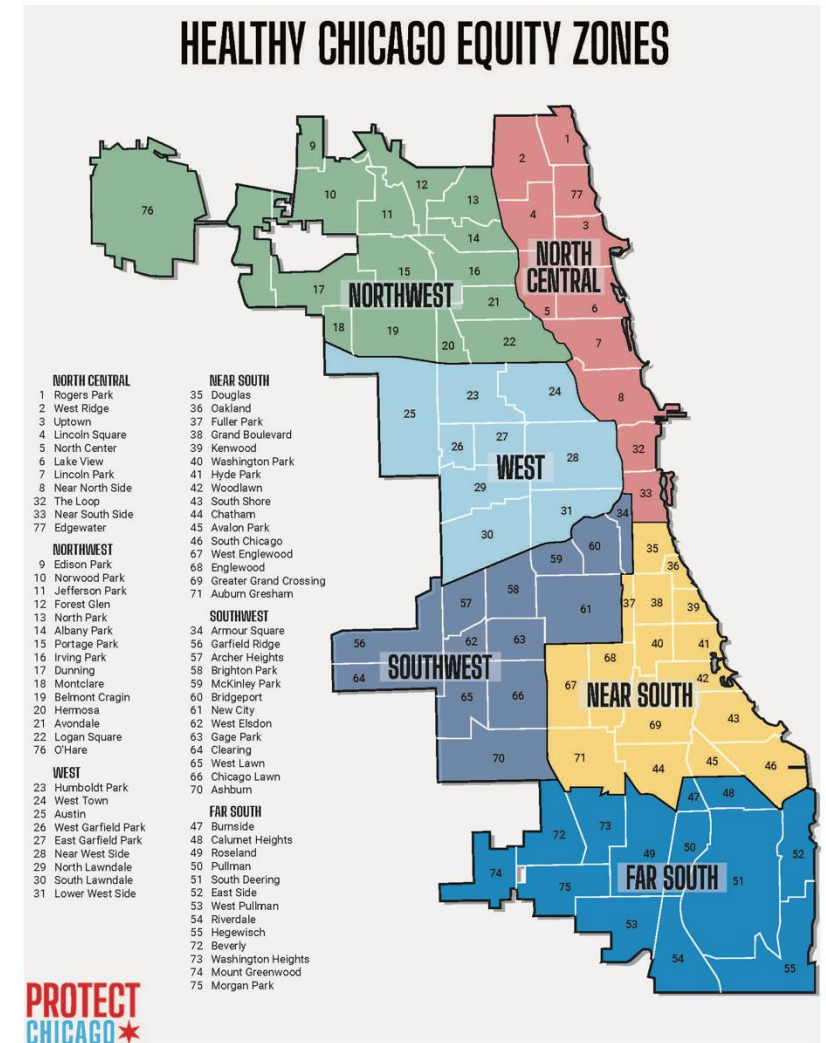
# What is a Health Equity Zone...?

## Technical Definition

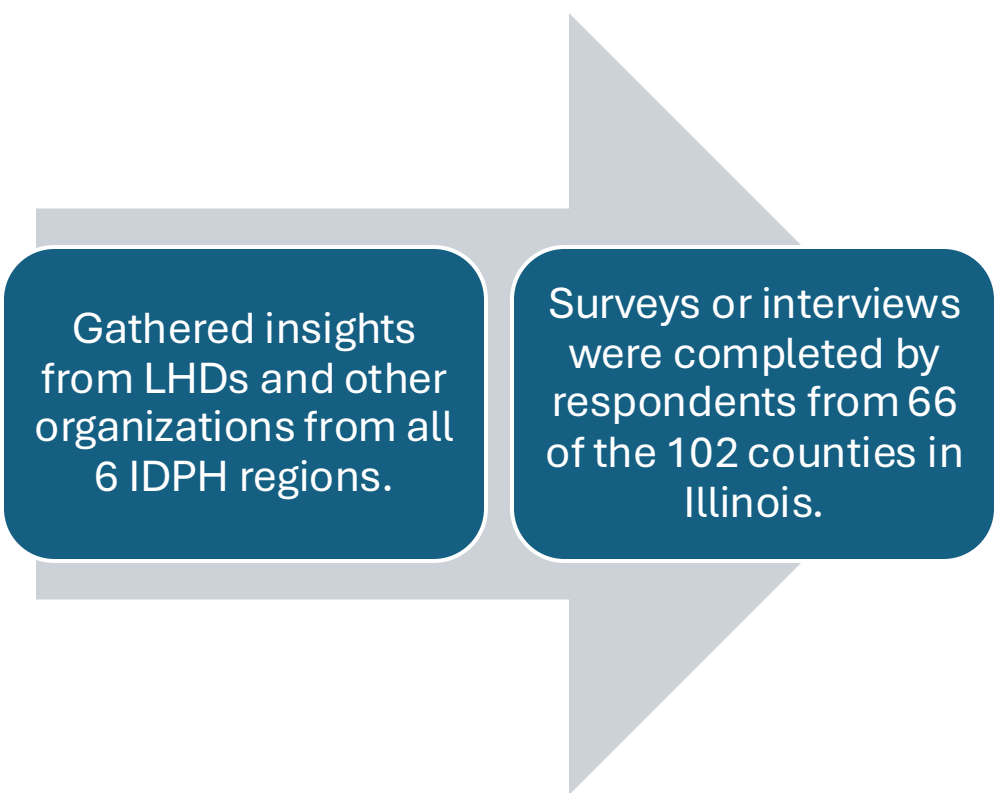
- A collaborative of multi-sectoral partnerships existing in a contiguous geographic area that demonstrates measurable and documented health disparities and poor health outcomes (which may include but are not limited to high rates of maternal complications, newborn health complications, and chronic and infectious disease), contains populations that experience health disparities, and is small enough for targeted interventions to have a significant impact on health outcomes and health disparities.

# Example & Impact of Other HEZ Initiatives

- Chicago (2021); funded 6 HEZs
- Activities
  - Citywide vaccination outreach and access programming.
  - Citywide distribution of fentanyl test kits
  - Collaborated with restaurants to create diabetes-friendly menus.
- Results
  - Completion of over 7,000 community surveys.
  - Contact with 162,000 residents with vaccination outreach materials.
  - Distribution of over 25,000 fentanyl test kits.
  - 6 restaurants developed diabetes-friendly menus.



# Tailoring the HEZ Model to Illinois



Gathered insights from LHDs and other organizations from all 6 IDPH regions.

Surveys or interviews were completed by respondents from 66 of the 102 counties in Illinois.

- Applicants will need **one dedicated IDPH or UIC staff member identified to answer questions** during the application process.
- IDPH should **give special consideration and support to underserved regions**, particularly rural areas and areas with limited access to the Internet.
- Most organizations do not have the capacity to add additional programming. The initiative should **allow funding to be used to pay staff positions** with clear communication about how long funding will last.
- Organizations best suited to lead an HEZ may differ from region to region, and different types of organizations have very different ideas about who should lead an HEZ. **The program should be flexible about who can lead an HEZ.**
- There is a **need for technical assistance and educational resources** for applicants and awardees.

# The IL HEZ Pilot

Program Structure & Objectives



# Program Structure

- IDPH will support the development of **two pilot HEZs** in the state.
- The HEZs will exist **within existing IDPH regions**
  - Geographical defined by city, county, zip code, etc.
  - May be a cluster of contiguous geographic areas (e.g., multiple cities, counties, or zip codes).
- There are two-phases of program activities, **but funding for Phase 2 is contingent on successful completion of Phase 1**
  - Initial Funding Period: January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025
  - Maximum budget per HEZ: \$500,000

# Program Objectives

## Phase 1 - Partnership Development & Program Planning

- Application Type: Competitive

### Objective 1

- Establish or expand a multi-sectoral collaborative of partners that includes at least 3 partner organizations

### Objective 2

- Leverage the SHIP, IPLAN, and other public health data to identify the primary hyper-local health priorities for the HEZ and key contributing factors

### Objective 3

- Develop an evidence- and theory-informed action plan for addressing the identified health priority/priorities for the HEZ and contributing factors

# Program Objectives

## Phase 2 - Program Implementation & Evaluation

- Pending continued availability of funding

### Objective 4

- Implement the action plan and conduct the evaluation

### Objective 5

- Develop a sustainability plan that leverages public and private funding sources to support the collaborative's ongoing activities and help ensure fiscal, personnel, and other resource needs are met.

# Program Objectives

- Successful applications will include detailed plans for Phase 1, the development of the HEZ, and a **budget for the entire project**.
- In the Work Plan, you will also be asked for your **initial** plans for Phase 2 (which may be revised at the end of Phase 1).
- Funding for Phase 2 will be contingent upon successful completion of the Phase 1 activities and the availability of funding.

# The IL HEZ Pilot

Funding Details & Eligibility Information

# Funding Details

<b>Title:</b>	Illinois Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Pilot
<b>Number of Anticipated Awards:</b>	2
<b>Single Award Range:</b>	Up to \$500,000 (inclusive of Phase 1 & 2)
<b>Cost Sharing:</b>	Not required, but permissible
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	Allows for 15% Administrative Costs
<b>Application Date Range:</b>	11/01/2024 – 12/03/2024
<b>Notice of Award Decision Letters</b>	12/19/2024

Phase 1

Phase 2  
(contingent)

Possible Program Timeline	
2024	
<b>November 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NOFO available to public</li><li>• Application portal opens for submissions</li></ul>
<b>December 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application portal closes</li><li>• Review process begins</li></ul>
<b>December 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review process ends</li><li>• Selected HEZs notified</li></ul>
2025	
<b>January 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding period for pilot ILHEZ initiative begins</li><li>• Selected HEZs begin planning phase</li></ul>
<b>June 30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selected HEZs end planning phase and report deliverables to IDPH and UIC</li></ul>
<b>July 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selected HEZs begin implementation and evaluation phase</li></ul>
2026	
<b>June 30</b>	Funding period for pilot ILHEZ initiative ends

# Eligibility Information

Eligible applicants are organizations **interested in becoming the lead organization of a local health equity zone**.

- The lead organization will build and/or grow a multi-sectoral collaborative of 3 or more partner organizations who work in a common geographical area (e.g., defined by zip codes, counties, cities) and conceived of by the applicant.
- Together, the lead organization, their partner organizations and the geographic area covered make up the health equity zone.

Local health departments or community-based organizations are eligible to be a lead organization.

- If a local health department is not the lead organization, **there must be at least one local health department among the partner organizations within a proposed collaborative**.

Applicants **do not** need to have selected all of the partner organizations in their proposed collaborative upon submission of the application.

# Eligibility Information

***Lead organization:*** An organization that has the capacity to manage the fiscal responsibilities associated with this grant. The lead organization should be physically located within the proposed HEZ they are leading.

- Possible applicants:
  - Corporation – Not for Profit
  - Government Entity (e.g., local health department)
  - University/Community College

***Partner organization:*** An organization located within the HEZ that works with the lead organization to provide specific skills, knowledge, and community connections in order to make work within the HEZ successful.

- Possible partners:
  - Any type of organization/entity



# The IL HEZ Pilot

Application Components & Scoring

# Application Components & Scoring

Sections	Scoring
Scope of Work	31 points
Work Plan	10 points
Budget	15 points
Health Equity Checklist	+ 35 points
	91 points (max for non-prioritized applicants)
Priority Applicants	+ 9 points
	100 points (max for prioritized applicants)

# Scope of Work (31 points)

## **Summary of Questions 1-6: Your Organization & HEZ Collaborative**

1. Provide a description of the lead organization
2. Describe the formation of the collaborative and description of partner organizations
3. Describe the collaborative's experience with community-driven programs
4. Describe the collaborative's governance structure
5. Identify the HEZ geographic area and population served
6. Explain the benefits to your organization of participating in HEZ Pilot initiative

# Scope of Work (31 points)

## Summary of Questions 7-11: Your Programmatic Process and Plans

- The focus of your response should be on your **overall strategy** for accomplishing the five Program Objectives, **with an emphasis on your plans for community engagement**:
- For each objective you will describe:
  - How you will accomplish the objective
  - What experience do you have with the objective
  - How will you engage residents within the HEZ in your process of accomplishing the objective

# Scope of Work (31 points)

## Summary of Questions 7-11: Your Programmatic Process and Plans

- The focus of your response should be on your **overall strategy** for accomplishing the five Program Objectives, **with an emphasis on your plans for community engagement**:

Example for Objective 1:

- How will you ... establish your multi-sectoral collaborative of partners
- What experience do you have ... establishing collaboratives
- How will you engage residents within the HEZ ... while establishing your collaborative

# Work Plan (10 points)

- A more detailed description of the specific steps you will take to accomplish each objective
- For each objective identify:
  - Key activities you will engage in to accomplish the objective
  - Responsible parties and persons
  - Expected outcomes
  - Metrics for evaluation
  - Timeframe for engaging in each activity
- Becomes the basis of your **SMART objectives** and project plan.

## Objective 1: Build or grow a multi-sectoral coalition of partners

**Activity:** Develop an inventory of current partnerships, categorized by sector and geography

**Person(s) Responsible:**

**Expected Outcome:**

**Metric:**

**Timeframe:**

***See supporting application documents for recommended activities, outcomes and metrics!***

# Budget (15 points)

**Proposed budget should focus on Phase 1 and Phase 2.**

**BUT Phase 2 funding is contingent on successful completion of Phase 1 and the availability of funds.**

## **Please keep in mind:**

- The HEZ's lead organization (i.e., applicant) will manage the budget, purchases, subcontracts, etc.
- Subcontractor information must be entered into EGrAMS when entering budget details.
- Funds: Some costs are not allowable under this grant. Please carefully read the NOFO for an explanation of which costs are allowed and which are not.

## **Regarding Phase 1...**

- Budget should be detailed in justifying expenses for Phase 1 (developing your collaborative and conducting needs assessment).
- It is important when budgeting for phase 1 to ensure that you leave enough **funding for implementation and evaluation in phase 2.**
- Funding allocated to Phase 1 should be less than the amount allocated to Phase 2.

## **Regarding Phase 2...**

- You will propose a budget that includes **your best guess for the allocation of costs for Phase 2;** this budget will be reevaluated at the end of Phase 1.
- In the budget narrative, please distinguish between Phase 1 and Phase 2 costs.

# Budget (15 points)

Proposed budget should focus on Phase 1 and Phase 2.

BUT Phase 2 funding is contingent on successful completion of Phase 1 and the availability of funds.

- It is recommended that applicants **allocate no more than \$100,000 to \$150,000 for Phase 1 (i.e., planning) activities** so that adequate funding remains for Phase 2 (i.e., implementation) activities.
- In addition, when developing budgets, please ensure that funding is distributed between the lead organization and partner organizations in a way that recognizes the additional responsibilities that will be required of the lead organization (e.g., fiscal management of the grant).

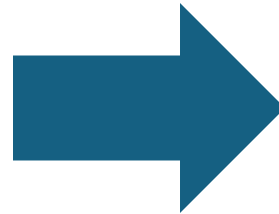


# Health Equity Checklist (35 points)

- When completing the IDPH Health Equity Checklist, please keep in mind that **the “intervention strategy” to reflect on in your response is the formation of your HEZ collaborative**.
- An assessment of the health equity focus of specific interventions developed by funded HEZ collaboratives (i.e., the HEZ’s action plan) will occur at the end of Phase 1 of this initiative.

# Health Equity Checklist (35 points)

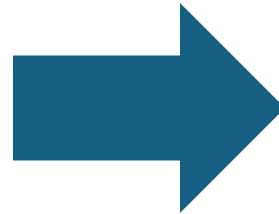
1. What persons / communities are most likely to benefit from this **intervention strategy**? Which disparately impacted communities are most affected by this **intervention strategy**?
2. How does this **intervention strategy** benefit disparately impacted persons / communities?
3. Will the proposed **intervention strategy** expand socio-economic opportunities for disparately impacted persons / community members and their overall health?



1. What persons / communities are most likely to benefit from the formation of your HEZ collaborative? Which disparately impacted communities are most affected by your HEZ collaborative?
2. How does your HEZ collaborative benefit disparately impacted persons / communities?
3. Will the proposed HEZ collaborative work **to** expand socio-economic opportunities for disparately impacted persons / community members and their overall health?

# Health Equity Checklist (35 points)

4. Will the proposed **intervention strategy** promote inclusive collaboration and / or civic engagement of all disparately impacted communities?
5. Will your **intervention strategy** ensure support of workforce equity and/or contracting equity?
6. How will this **intervention strategy** achieve greater health equity for disparately impacted persons / communities?
7. Name and explain at least two metrics that will be used to evaluate your health equity goals



4. Will the proposed **HEZ collaborative** promote inclusive collaboration and / or civic engagement of all disparately impacted communities?
5. Will your **HEZ collaborative** ensure support of workforce equity and/or contracting equity?
6. How will **your HEZ collaborative** achieve greater health equity for disparately impacted persons / communities?
7. Name and explain at least two metrics that will be used to evaluate your health equity goals

# Prioritized Applicant (9 points)

## Prioritized applicant (up to 9 pts of overall score)

1. HEZs in IL counties designated as having medium-high to high levels of social vulnerability according to [CDC/ATSDR SVI](#). (3 points)
2. HEZs in IL counties designated as rural by IDPH (3 points)
3. Applications for which the lead organization is an LHD that is in the bottom 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of IDPH operating budget. (3 points)

**A complete list of counties qualifying for SVI and rurality points is included in the NOFO. Qualification for the 3<sup>rd</sup> priority area will be determined by IDPH after the application deadline**

# The IL HEZ Pilot

Navigating EGrAMS

# Pre-Qualification and Pre-Award Requirements for State of Illinois

If you have not done this...you must do this to apply and receive funding from the State of Illinois <https://idphgrants.com/misc/ViewTutorials.aspx?appcd=090100>

The screenshot shows the IDPH GRANTS ILLINOIS.gov website. The header includes the IDPH logo and navigation links: Home, Setup, Application Designer, Grantor, Review Management, Approval, Post Award, Training Materials, and Logout. The main content area is titled 'Tutorials' and lists various training resources. A red box highlights the link 'GATA Pre-Award Requirements and instructions' under the 'Grant Accountability and Transparency Act' section. Other links include 'EGrAMS Grantor Training - Intermediate and Advanced', 'NEW! Progress Report Training - Grantor Webinar', 'IDPH Stop Payment Policy and Procedure- Grantor Webinar', 'Introductory EGrAMS Training for Supervisory Staff', 'EGrAMS Grantor Basics- 2023', 'EGrAMS Grant Amendments Webinar', 'EGrAMS Grant Amendments Q and A', 'EGrAMS UAT/Grant Setup/ Amendment Webinar 2024', 'Instructional Guides', 'EGrAMS Instructional Guide — Application Entry and Submission', 'EGrAMS QuickStart Guide for Reviewers', 'EGrAMS FAQs and Common Error Message Guide', 'EGrAMS Financial Progress Reports – Grantee Guide', 'EGrAMS Progress Reports – Grantor Guide', 'Ad Hoc Emails Guide for Grantors', 'Workflow Guide for Grantors', 'EGrAMS Stage and Status Key', 'EGrAMS User Permissions Guide for Grantors - Assigning Grantees', 'Risk Assessment Reporting Screen Guide', 'EGrAMS Amendment and Line Item Transfer Guide for Grantees', 'EGrAMS Amendment and Line Item Transfer Guide for Grantors', 'EGrAMS Role User Manual - Grantor', 'Stop Payment Policy and Procedures', 'EGrAMS Amendment Stage and Status Guide', 'Grant Accountability and Transparency Act', 'GATA Frequently Asked Questions', 'GATA Webinars - Series 2 (FY18)', 'How to Register in SAMS', and 'Indirect Cost Rate Election'.

- Register your organization with the State of Illinois
- Obtain and FEIN/EIN number
- Register for a SAM.gov account
- Link your GATA account with your Illinois.gov account
- Create an organization profile on the Grantee Portal
- Complete the Internal Controls Questionnaire

# Getting Started in EGrAMS

<https://idphgrants.com/>



The screenshot shows the IDPH EGrAMS homepage. The header includes the IDPH logo, 'IDPH GRANTS', and 'ILLINOIS.gov'. A navigation menu on the left lists various options, with 'Register your Agency', 'Create User Profile', 'Grant Opportunity Notification', and 'Training Materials' highlighted with colored boxes. The main content area welcomes users to EGrAMS and provides information about the system. It also lists updates and information, including links to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, IDPH COVID-19 Memo, and COVID Relief Extension information. A footer at the bottom contains links to the Illinois.gov Home, EGrAMS Home, and Contact EGrAMS Helpdesk, along with a copyright notice.

**IDPH GRANTS ILLINOIS.gov**

Home | Date : Oct-31-24

Home  
About EGrAMS  
EGrAMS Login  
Validate Workstation  
**Register your Agency**  
**Create User Profile**  
Grant Opportunity Notification  
Training Materials  
Current Grants  
Center for Minority Health Services  
Health Insurance Marketplace  
Office of Disease Control  
Finance and Administration  
Office of Health Care Regulations  
Health Protection  
Health Protection - HIV/AIDS  
Health Promotion  
Office of Performance Management

**Welcome to EGrAMS!**

EGrAMS is an Electronic Grants Administration & Management System utilized by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for end-to-end grants management. This tool allows applicants, grantees, and grantors to interact in a web based setting, enabling greater awareness, accountability, and analysis throughout the life cycle of a grant.

**EGrAMS Updates and Information:**

The EGrAMS Homepage is frequently updated with important information and news for IDPH's grantee community. Scroll down for more information on the following key topics:

1. **The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (COVID-19)**  
[M\\_21\\_20 American Rescue Act](#)  
[Administrative Flexibility Memo](#)
2. **IDPH COVID-19 MEMO AND GRANT GUIDANCE. CLICK HERE**
3. **COVID Relief Extension information**

**\*\*Each grant is unique; please contact your grant manager to verify if this applies to your grant\*\***

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, extends the period during which recipients may incur

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- Register your Agency
- Create a User Profile
- Sign up for Grant Opportunity Notification
- Check out Training Materials
- Contact EGrAMS Helpdesk

# Training Materials

[Training Materials](#) ⓘ

Home

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Grant Opportunity Notification

Training Materials

Current Grants

Center for Minority Health Services

Health Insurance Marketplace

Office of Disease Control

Finance and Administration

Office of Health Care Regulations

Health Protection

Health Protection - HIV/AIDS

Health Promotion

Office of Performance Management

Training Webinars and Instructional Guides

Instructional Guides

Getting Started in EGrAMS – Applicant Guide

EGrAMS User Permissions Guide

EGrAMS Instructional Guide – Application Entry and Submission

EGrAMS Stage and Status Key

EGrAMS FAQs and Common Error Message Guide

EGrAMS QuickStart Guide for Reviewers

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

GATA Frequently Asked Questions

How to Register in SAMS

Indirect Cost Rate Election

GATA 101 for Grantees

GATA Pre-Award Requirements and Instructions

GATA Webinars - Series 2

GATA-IDPH Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaire

Monthly Meeting Recordings

January 12, 2021 - (GATA Helpdesk, Pre-qualifications, Grantee Risk Assessments, EGrAMS Helpdesk, Create user Profile, Execution of Grants)

February 09, 2021 - (GATA Updates, Progress Reports)

March 09, 2021 - (GATA/EGRAMS Reminder. Grant application)

April 13, 2021 - (Indirect Cost Rate, GATA/Audit/EGrAMS Reminders, Logic Model Presentation)

May 11, 2021 - (GATA Reminder, Audit Package Validation Errors, EGrAMS Updates Grant Execution Update; Grant Fraud, Waste, Abuse and

June 8th, 2021 (GATA/EGrAMS Reminder, Grant Application process)

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Applicant (\*) - Required field Timeout : 56 mins Date : Oct-24-24

Agency: Champaign-Urbana Public Health District  
 Application: Illinois Health Equity Zones (HEZ) Pilot - 2025  
 Program: Illinois Health Equity Zones (HEZ) Pilot - 2025

Applicant Grant History Scope of Work Work Plan Health Equity Budget Indirect Costs

Save Save + Validate Errors PDF Copy

Documents  
 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
 Budget Glossary  
 Subcontractor Disclosure Form

1. Applicant Information - Page 2

☐ House District 94 ☐ House District 95 ☐ House District 96 ☐ House District 97  
☐ House District 98 ☐ House District 99

\*Congressional District

☐ Congress District 01 ☐ Congress District 02 ☐ Congress District 03 ☐ Congress District 04  
☐ Congress District 05 ☐ Congress District 06 ☐ Congress District 07 ☐ Congress District 08  
☐ Congress District 09 ☒ Congress District 10 ☐ Congress District 11 ☐ Congress District 12  
☐ Congress District 13 ☐ Congress District 14 ☐ Congress District 15 ☐ Congress District 16  
☐ Congress District 17 ☐ Congress District 18

o. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Acknowledgement

☒ Before proceeding, please verify that you have read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) instructions. (Note: NOFO instructions are available in the 'Show Documents' section at the top of the page).

User Name: Jclontz [ L Shaw ] , Agency: Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

## 1. Applicant Information – Page 2

### o. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Acknowledgement

- Go to Show Documents to download a copy of the NOFO.
- Make sure you read all of it before you continue the application.

# Budget

## Personal Services

Always select 'Others' so that you may input the job title and name of staff who is that title.

If you select one of the other codes, you cannot add a staff name.

If you will be hiring someone, put TBD (To Be Determined).

The screenshot shows the 'Budget' tab in the EGrAMS system. The 'Grant Budget Detail' section is active, showing 'Category : Program Expenses - Personal Services (Incl Sal)' and 'Classification Seq : 2'. A table lists budget items with checkboxes and descriptions. The first three items are marked with a checkmark and 'Others' in the description field, with a red box highlighting the dropdown arrow. The fourth item is also marked with a checkmark and 'Others'. The last two items are unchecked and have empty description fields. A 'Comment Line:' field is at the bottom. A 'Lookup' window is open, displaying a list of codes and descriptions: CW (Case Worker), HE (Health Educator), OW (Outreach Worker), PD (Project Director), PM (Program Manager), PS (Program Supervisor), WC (Wellness Coordinator), and ZZZ (Others). The 'Record Count' is 8 and 'Page 1 of 1'.

Category	Grant History	Scope of Work	Work Plan	Health Equity	Budget	Indirect Cost	Miscellaneous
<b>1. Grant Budget Detail</b>							
Show Instructions							
Category : Program Expenses - Personal Services (Incl Sal)							
Classification Seq : 2							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X	Others	...				
Project Director - Sheryl Packer							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X	Others	...				
Financial Officer - William Bryant							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X	Others	...				
Case Worker - TBD							
<input type="checkbox"/>	X		...				
<input type="checkbox"/>	X		...				
Comment Line:							

Code	Description
CW	Case Worker
HE	Health Educator
OW	Outreach Worker
PD	Project Director
PM	Program Manager
PS	Program Supervisor
WC	Wellness Coordinator
ZZZ	Others

# For More Information

- NOFO: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/provider-partner-resources/healthy-illinois/hez-grant.html>
- EGrAMS: <https://idphgrants.com/user/home.aspx>

# Questions & Answers