



Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Grant Opportunity 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

WHY WE'RE DOING IT

Everyone should have the opportunity for good health.



Access to high-quality medical care is critical, but research shows up to 80 percent of a person's health outcomes are influenced by factors such as access to healthy food, reliable transportation, and financial stability.

As Cone Health Foundation (CHF) continues implementing our strategic priorities aligned with our mission and vision, we know that we must address all of the social determinants of health. Our aim is to influence the factors that influence health with racial equity at the center - this **Request for Proposals** is another step in that direction.

OPPORTUNITY AT A GLANCE

Funding will prioritize initiatives that demonstrate measurable impact, elevate community voice, and strengthen long-term pathways toward healthier and more equitable communities. **Proposals must align with one or more of the following priority areas:**

- **Access to Health Care**
- **Access to Healthy Food**
- **Economic Mobility**
- **Education**
- **Safe and Healthy Housing**

CHF will consider grant requests up to \$75,000.

Applications must be submitted electronically through the designated application portal on conehealthfoundation.com by July 31, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Grant announcements will be made in October.

OVERVIEW

Cone Health Foundation is pleased to announce this year's Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Grant Opportunity to support community-driven solutions that advance health equity and improve quality of life across the Greensboro area.

Recognizing that social, economic, and environmental conditions shape health outcomes, this funding opportunity prioritizes innovative, community-informed initiatives that address the root causes of inequities. While Cone Health Foundation values direct services for immediate needs, this funding focuses on strengthening systems, expanding access, and driving long-term community impact.

Funding will prioritize initiatives that demonstrate measurable impact, elevate community voice, and strengthen long-term pathways toward healthier and more equitable communities.

Target Populations Across Priority Areas:

- Black communities
- Hispanic/Latino communities
- LGBTQ communities
- Low-income families with a child, a senior, or an adult with a disability
- Refugees, asylees, and immigrants
- Veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, former foster youth
- Note: Other racial and ethnic groups are also invited to apply for grants

Proposals must align with one or more of the following priority areas:

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:

Physical, financial, cultural, and linguistic access, as well as system navigation, timeliness, and continuity of care.

Other examples may include:

- Behavioral and mental health services
- Community health navigation and outreach
- Maternal and child health
- Primary and preventive care access
- Transportation barriers to care

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD:

Collaborative strategies that strengthen food systems infrastructure and policy to improve access for underserved populations, as well as initiatives that provide access to healthy, affordable, quality, and culturally relevant food.

Other examples may include:

- Community food distribution
- Culturally responsive healthy eating programs
- Food security initiatives
- Nutrition education
- Urban agriculture and local food systems

ECONOMIC MOBILITY:

Including workforce pathways leading to living wage employment

Other examples may include:

- Employment readiness programs
- Financial empowerment and literacy
- Small business and entrepreneurship support
- Workforce development and career pathways
- Youth workforce initiatives

EDUCATION:

School readiness and educational access, persistence, and quality from prenatal through 3rd grade, and in post-secondary education.

Other examples may include:

- Academic enrichment and support
- Career exposure and postsecondary readiness
- Early childhood development
- Health and wellness education
- Youth leadership development

SAFE AND HEALTHY HOUSING:

Healthy home repairs, habitability interventions, and tenant stability efforts such as eviction prevention and rent-reporting programs.

Other examples may include:

- Environmental health and safety improvements
- Healthy homes initiatives
- Housing stability and homelessness prevention
- Supportive housing services

FUNDING INFORMATION

This one-time funding opportunity is intended for organizations already doing impactful work in our community.

- Maximum award amount: \$75,000
- Grant term: 12 to 24 months

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be a nonprofit, community-based organization, coalition, or other community group in Greensboro. Organizations without a 501(c)(3) status must have an eligible fiscal sponsor
- Serve residents within the Greensboro area
- Demonstrate alignment with at least one SDOH priority area
- Have the organizational capacity to implement and evaluate the proposed initiative
- Be in good standing financially and operationally
- Have an operating budget **less than or equal to \$500,000**

Organizations are encouraged to move beyond short-term relief efforts and toward strategies that create lasting change and equitable opportunities. Collaborative and partnership-based applications are encouraged.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Center equity and community voice
- Address disparities affecting historically marginalized populations
- Demonstrate cross-sector collaboration
- Utilize evidence-based or promising practices
- Include measurable outcomes and evaluation strategies
- Build sustainable, long-term community impact

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

While direct service programs are important, competitive proposals will demonstrate how activities:

- Address root causes of and systemic barriers to health equity
- Build long-term community capacity
- Strengthen coordination across organizations and sectors
- Center community voice and lived experience
- Produce measurable and sustainable outcomes

TIMELINE

Milestone	Date
RFP Release	June 9, 2026
Application Deadline	July 31, 2026 by 5:00 PM
Proposal Review Period	August–September 2026
Award Notifications	October 2026
Grant Period Begins	January 2027

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Funded initiatives should aim to:

- Improve equitable access to health-related resources and opportunities
- Reduce barriers impacting health and well-being
- Demonstrate measurable community-level impact
- Strengthen protective factors and long-term resilience
- Increase community engagement and trusted partnerships

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Funded initiatives should aim to:

- Alignment with SDOH priorities (20%)
- Community need and target population (20%)
- Program design and feasibility (20%)
- Impact and measurable outcomes (20%)
- Organizational capacity and partnerships (10%)
- Budget clarity and sustainability (10%)

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must be submitted electronically through the designated application portal by **July 31, 2026 at 5:00 PM.**

Late, incomplete, or ineligible applications will not be reviewed.

Application portal and additional submission details will be available at Cone Health Foundation website: www.conehealthfoundation.com

If you have any questions, then please reach out to Luke Wallace, Finance and Grants Manager, Foundation@conehealth.com.



FUNDING GUIDANCE: DOWNSTREAM VS. MIDSTREAM/UPSTREAM INVESTMENTS

The examples below are intended to provide guidance and are not exhaustive.

Funding Approach	Description	Examples Encouraged for Funding (Midstream/Upstream)	Examples Generally Not Prioritized (Downstream Only)
Access to Health Care	Addresses barriers to obtaining quality care and improving long-term health outcomes	Community health worker models, transportation coordination systems, integrated behavioral health access, care navigation, partnerships expanding preventive care access	One-time health fairs without follow-up care, isolated screenings without navigation support, short-term charity care only
Access to Healthy Food	Improves sustainable access to nutritious food and food systems	Community food systems, nutrition education tied to behavior change, mobile markets in food deserts, school/community partnerships improving long-term food access	One-time food giveaways without education or connection to resources, holiday-only meal distribution
Safe and Healthy Housing	Supports housing stability and healthy living conditions	Partnerships for housing navigation, eviction prevention partnerships, healthy homes interventions, coordinated supportive housing models	Emergency hotel vouchers only, one-time rent assistance without stabilization supports
Economic Mobility	Creates pathways toward long-term economic stability and opportunity	Workforce development, career readiness pipelines, youth employment initiatives, entrepreneurship support, financial empowerment and asset-building programs	One-time financial assistance, temporary stipend programs without workforce strategy

Funding Approach	Description	Examples Encouraged for Funding (Midstream/Upstream)	Examples Generally Not Prioritized (Downstream Only)
Education	Improves long-term educational and developmental outcomes	Early childhood readiness, mentoring with measurable outcomes, career exposure programs, health literacy initiatives, educational pathways connected to workforce opportunities	Single-event school supply drives, one-time motivational workshops
Community Engagement & Equity	Ensures community voice informs solutions and investments	Resident-led planning, culturally responsive engagement strategies, community advisory councils, co-designed programming with impacted populations	Programs designed without community input or participation
Systems Change & Collaboration	Strengthens coordination and long-term community infrastructure	Cross-sector collaborations, shared referral systems, coordinated community response models, initiatives leveraging multiple organizations and resources	Isolated programs operating independently without partnerships

Grant Application Questions

Application questions are listed below, but you **must** create a Blackbaud account to complete the questions.



SECTION 1: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name of person making the request

First name:

Last name:

Pronouns:

Title/Position:

E-mail:

Contact phone number:

Information about the organization applying

Organization Name:

Mailing Address:

Executive Director/CEO:

EIN Number:

Year Founded:

Mission Statement:

SECTION 2: PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Project Title:

Amount Requested:

Project Duration:

SDOH Focus Area(s):

Select all that apply:

Access to Health Care

Economic Mobility

Safe and Healthy Housing

Access to Healthy Food

Education

How does your organization’s work align with the priority area you selected? If your organization works within a specific focus area under that priority, please describe the connection. Feel free to refer to the descriptions and examples under “funding priority area” for more information.

PROJECT/PROGRAM SUMMARY (150–250 WORDS)

Provide a concise overview of the proposed initiative, target population, and intended impact.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY NEED AND OPPORTUNITY (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Please describe:

- **The specific community need or challenge being addressed**
- **Relevant local or population-specific data**
- **Population(s) disproportionately impacted**
- **Existing gaps or barriers your project seeks to address**

SECTION 4: PROJECT/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Please include:

- **Goals and objectives**
- **Core activities and implementation timeline**
- **How the project/program addresses social determinants of health**
- **Evidence-based, culturally responsive, and/or promising practices utilized**

SECTION 5: OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Describe:

- **Expected outcomes and community impact**
- **Two to five measurable indicators**
- **Data collection and evaluation methods**
- **How findings will inform learning and continuous improvement**

Examples of indicators may include:

- **Number of individuals served**
- **Increased access to services**
- **Improved health or economic outcomes**
- **Participant retention or completion rates**

SECTION 6: EQUITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Describe:

- **How equity is centered in program design and delivery**
- **How community members inform planning, implementation, or evaluation**
- **Strategies used to ensure cultural responsiveness and accessibility**

SECTION 7: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Please identify:

- **Key partners and stakeholders**
- **Roles and responsibilities**
- **How collaboration strengthens community impact and sustainability**

SECTION 8: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Please describe:

- **Financial and operational readiness**
- **Previous experience managing grants of similar scope**
- **Relevant organizational experience**
- **Staffing structure and key personnel**

SECTION 9: BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE (BUDGET WITH EXPLANATORY NARRATIVE UP TO 250 WORDS)

Budget Categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| • Personnel | • Travel |
| • Program Expenses | • Indirect Costs
(if applicable) |
| • Supplies and
Materials | • Other |

Budget Narrative

Provide a clear explanation of how grant funds will be used and justify major expenses.

SECTION 10: SUSTAINABILITY (350 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Describe:

- **Plans for sustaining the project beyond the grant period**
- **Additional funding strategies or partnerships**
- **Opportunities for systems change or long-term impact**

SECTION 11: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Please upload:

- **IRS determination letter**
- **990 tax form**
- **W-9 (most recent)**
- **Current, board-approved, annual operating budget demonstrating organizational sustainability**

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Authorized Signature:

Name and Title:

Date: