



Building Capacity for Pennsylvania's Free Clinic to Better Serve Those in Need

2024 Request for Proposal (RFP): Deadline: April 1, 2024
One-Year Grants up to \$50,000

Purpose

The Highmark Foundation is pleased to announce a request for proposals to provide capacity building grants through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to eligible free clinics throughout Pennsylvania.

There are more than 1,000 free clinics in the United States. These clinics provide health care services to approximately 2 million individuals across the country without medical insurance. Free clinics predominantly serve the uninsured, low incomes families in their communities. Free clinics continue to be critical safety net providers for those without access to healthcare. In Pennsylvania there are over 680,000 uninsured people. Free clinics are currently experiencing more challenges to meet the needs of the populations they serve. These challenges include increased costs in emergency and more expensive treatments; reduction in staff and changes in operations; the inability to conduct direct community outreach due to limited time and resources; impact of Medicaid Redetermination; and a reduction by at least 40 percent in donations. Without adequate funding, Free Clinics lack adequate resources to serve as the safety net for those in need.

Highmark Foundation has a history of addressing health care needs for vulnerable and underserved populations across Pennsylvania. Through our commitment to partnering with organizations, we strive to **1) reduce health disparities, 2) improve health equity, 3) improve patient experience and quality measures and 4) increase access to care.**

Potential Projects

The Highmark Foundation will award one-year grants up to \$50,000 to eligible free clinics to support capacity building activities through one of the following categories:

- Behavioral health
- Oral Health (veteran-focused a priority)
- Electronic Health/Medical Record system

These activities will be evaluated through the lens of improving patient experience and care delivery, initiating innovative preventive health programs and services, or expanding existing services. Interventions should be evidence-based and demonstrate measurable health outcomes and quality measures related to the chosen capacity building activity.

Key Dates and Timeframe

- Application opens March 4, 2024
- Deadline April 1, 2024
- Awardees will be announced in May 2024
- Grant activity will begin June 2024
- Final report will be due August 1, 2025

The Highmark Foundation is a private, charitable organization of Highmark, Inc. that supports initiatives and programs aimed at improving community health. To be eligible for a grant, an organization must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a free clinic operating in Pennsylvania
- Be a nonprofit as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as a public charity under section 509(a) of that code. The Foundation does not support third-party or fiduciary arrangements.
- Have **not** received a grant from Highmark Foundation in 2023
- Clinics that have low monthly patient utilization will not be a priority

The RFP is available online by visiting <https://highmarkfoundationrfp.versaic.com/login>.

All requests must be submitted online. If you want to learn more about this opportunity or have questions, please attend one of our learning sessions. The following dates are available:

Friday, March 8 at 8:00 a.m.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 265 778 078 356

Passcode: MeGQ6p

Or call in (audio only)

+1 412-564-3624

Phone Conference ID: 645 470 750#

Friday, March 22

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 257 686 007 26

Passcode: iMTVsk

Or call in (audio only)

+1 412-564-3624

Phone Conference ID: 844 422 67#

Friday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 238 112 428 099

Passcode: dqeUAY

Or call in (audio only)

+1 412-564-3624

Phone Conference ID: 148 748 065#

Monday, March 25 at

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 290 973 407 495

Passcode: CaaVXp

Or call in (audio only)

+1 412-564-3624

Phone Conference ID: 376 569 937#