

Collaboration to Advance Reach, Equity, and Systems (Chicago CARES) to Prevent Diabetes REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Diabetic Tele-Retinopathy Screening Seed Funding 2021

Submission Deadline:	08/13/2021
Award Notification:	8/27/2021
Anticipated Funding Amount:	\$5000
Anticipated Number of Awards:	5
Funding Support For:	Funding will support implementation and optimization of diabetic retinopathy screening programs using telehealth

BACKGROUND

Type 2 diabetes is a leading public health problem impacting individuals, families, and communities across the United States. Nationally, more than 30 million adults live with diabetes. These national statistics are reflected in the city of Chicago, which has an overall diabetes rate of 10.6% with significantly higher rates among African Americans, Latinx, and low-income populations. These communities are also at an increased risk for poor diabetes outcomes.

The leading cause of blindness in working-age adults is eye disease related to poorly managed diabetes. Early diagnosis through screening and treatment of diabetes-related eye disease is 90% effective in preventing blindness. However, in many communities it can be challenging to obtain eye exams from eye care providers, thus leveraging telehealth for diabetic retinopathy in primary care offers an opportunity to improve access and health outcomes.ⁱ

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, under Cooperative Agreement CDC-RFA-DP18-1817, the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) are joining forces with nearly two dozen community partners to reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities around diabetes outcomes. This initiative, called the Chicago Collaboration to Advance Reach, Equity, and Systems (Chicago CARES) includes a component of using telehealth to optimize diabetic retinopathy screening.

The Chicago CARES program seeks to provide financial support to provide seed funding to three organizations who are well positioned to implement or optimize their internal diabetic retinopathy screening program using telehealth.

Organizations must:

- Provide primary care services in Chicago
- Currently have equipment such as retinal cameras for diabetic tele-retinopathy screening or the funding to acquire one

ⁱ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion



PROGRAM BENEFITS

In addition to the financial support, awardees will provide technical assistance, expertise, and programmatic support to selected partners. We will have the opportunity to provide:

- A Learning Collaborative along with other awardees
- Practice coaching on process improvements and workflow optimization
- Program Evaluation guidance
- Current policy information to inform reimbursement and sustainability planning

YOUR ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT

With the ongoing support of IPHI and CDPH, your organization will commit to:

- Participate in 5 Learning Collaborative meetings
- Attend the Chicago CARES Diabetic Tele-Retinopathy stakeholder meetings
- Construct a Plan, Do, Study, Act framework for optimizing Diabetic Tele-Retinopathy
- Report on key project metrics identified in the PDSA cycles

PROJECT TIMELINE

Key Dates	Event
May 3, 2021	Release of Chicago CARES to Prevent Diabetes RFP
Application period	8/6/21 is the final day to submit questions to IPHI
August 13, 2021	Deadline to submit application
August 27, 2021	Announcement of funded partners
September 2021	Kick-Off Meeting (<i>mandatory</i>)
October 2021	Learning Collaborative 1
November 2021	Learning Collaborative 2
December 2021	Learning Collaborative 3
January 2021	Learning Collaborative 4
February 2021	Learning Collaborative 5



The Chicago CARES program will make the final determination of funding based on the following elements:

Section	Questions	Points
II. Project Goals and Experience	1-5	25
III. Patient and Practice Characteristics	1-3	20
IV. Readiness Assessment and Evaluation	1-4	30
V. Project Description	1-3	25

Submit your application to ChicagoCARES RFP@iphionline.org with “<<Your Organization Name>>--- Diabetic Tele-Retinopathy Screening Application” in the subject line. Submission deadline is 08/13/2021.

Submit questions regarding the RFP via email by 8/6/2021.
