

Promoting a Healthier Community
VNA FOUNDATION
OF GREATER NORTH PENN



Inclusion Grants

Launching July 1, 2021

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*We thank
you for
being here!*

INCLUSION GRANTS: DESCRIPTION

Grants for specific projects designed to increase **access to health and human service resources** in the North Penn region among under-resourced people of color, immigrants & refugees, and/or English Language Learners.

Similar to the VNAF's Census Inclusion grants, but for health and human service purposes, including mental health and the distribution of COVID vaccine in our region.

In surveys and conversations during 2020-2021, VNAF Grantees expressed a need for this type of support to reach more diverse racial/ethnic populations in NP area whose barriers to health services were exposed or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

INCLUSION GRANTS: BACKGROUND

In surveys and conversations during 2020-2021, VNAF Grantees expressed a need for this type of support to reach more diverse racial/ethnic populations in North Penn area whose barriers to health services were exposed or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are links to background reading on the “dual pandemics” of COVID-19 and racial injustice that also helped inform this grant program’s goals:

[COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities \(cdc.gov\)](#)

[Beyond the Case Count: Wide-Ranging Disparities COVID-19 in U.S. | Commonwealth Fund](#)

['Facts Not Fear: COVID-19 Vaccines and the Black Community' fosters deeper discussion in Montgomery County | News | thereporteronline.com](#)

[New president of Philly Medical Society talks racial disparities in health care | 5 Questions \(inquirer.com\)](#)

[Stop AAPI Hate Mental Health Report - Stop AAPI Hate](#)

[How one nurse anesthetist is working to fight racial disparities in healthcare | Health & Wellness | thereporteronline.com](#)

[Health Disparities by Race and Ethnicity - Center for American Progress](#)

INCLUSION GRANTS: DESCRIPTION

**Up to \$15,000 per year for 1-2 years,
depending on scope of project.**

If needed, a **Research** grant of up to **\$2500** may be awarded at the LOI stage for research, data collection and/or exploration of partnership opportunities prior to application stage.

Not all applicants will request or receive a Research grant.

Receiving a Research grant does not guarantee LOI approval or funding for project itself, but it may help determine scope/viability of goals. (May also help in securing other funding)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN INCLUSION GRANT?

Current VNAF Grantees doing work in North Penn

Any 2021 VNAF General Operating or Program grant recipient is also eligible to apply for an Inclusion grant since these are for specific stand-alone projects.

- *If your organization applied for a 2021 grant and was declined, you may apply for an Inclusion grant.**

Nonprofit Organizations who have not previously applied, or are “new” to North Penn

Any organization that does NOT qualify for a VNAF General Operating or Program grant because its current programmatic activities are not focused on North Penn is eligible to apply for an Inclusion grant if your specific project's goals are to establish greater access to health/human service resources for communities of color, immigrants & refugees, or English Language Learners in the North Penn region.

Partnerships and collaborations among organizations are highly encouraged.

We can work with groups on joint projects.

**Please see Grant Eligibility requirements on the VNA Foundation website for more information.*

INCLUSION GRANTS: PROJECT IDEAS

If your nonprofit already operates in North Penn area:

- You may already be engaged in this work, and wish to **deepen/expand an existing program/project** to promote access for the diverse communities you already serve, **OR**
- You may wish to **develop a new project** aimed at increasing your outreach and appeal to more diverse racial and ethnic groups than you already serve (see “Readiness” question on LOI)*
 - *In either case, you may want to engage in the work alone, or you may want to partner with another org(s)*

* If further research is needed to ensure that the community is interested in this kind of help, you may apply for **up to \$2500 in a Research grant** to gauge interest in proposed activities.

INCLUSION GRANTS: PROJECT IDEAS

If your organization is **not** already operating in North Penn area:

- You may be doing similar work elsewhere in the SE PA region and wish to adapt it to serve an unmet need in the North Penn area for people of color, immigrants & refugees, English Language Learners.
- Depending on your familiarity with the North Penn area, VNAF personnel may offer to connect your agency to local organization(s) to be complimentary partners in this work, to limit the duplication of services and maximize involvement of **trusted messengers**
- You may be a candidate for a Research grant if there is a need to gather data and/or conduct outreach before launching new project to better understand North Penn community and tailor approach to suit—let's not assume “It worked in X-town, so it will work in North Penn.”

INCLUSION GRANTS: SOME EXAMPLES

What kinds of projects are we talking about?

Just for instance, project ideas could include (but are **not limited to):**

- Creating translation options on your website and training staff/volunteers in new languages and cultural sensitivity in order to be more welcoming to various racial and ethnic groups;
- Broadening food pantry offerings to accommodate diverse religious/ethnic preferences;
- Addressing specific mental health concerns that were exacerbated by the disruptions of the pandemic and racial injustice issues;
- Providing vaccination information sessions/shots in partnership with faith leaders in diverse congregations*, etc.

We are always available to discuss your unique project ideas one on one.

We are eager to support you in your efforts to improve access!

*June 18-
North Penn
Community
Faith Leaders
Forum

INCLUSION GRANTS: EXPECTATIONS

No judgment. If your organization is “lower” on the readiness scale in terms of racial inclusion, don’t be self-conscious about approaching the VNAF to discuss your ideas for improving access. We are all at varying stages of this work and we are learning along with you, our partners.

This work is complicated. We aren’t going to reverse centuries of racial/cultural barriers through a single grant, project or initiative. We are looking for sincere efforts to begin this work and we can fund projects over a 2-year period, but we understand that there will be much more work to do in the years/decades to come.

Don’t go it alone. We are not forcing partnerships for partnerships’ sake, but if you feel that you can advance your goals more effectively by joining forces with another entity, please consider doing so. Few of us already have all the internal capacity/know-how to reach new audiences. Also, if you can take advantage of other initiatives happening simultaneously to enhance this work, please do!

INCLUSION GRANTS: TIMELINE

July 1, 2021: Letters of Inquiry (LOI) and Applications go live on VNAF website.

Letters of Inquiry and Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, with the Inclusion Grant Committee making **monthly** recommendations to the VNAF Board for approval. Communications and awards will happen on an ongoing basis. Take your time developing an idea!

March 1, 2022: End of application period.

Final recommendations will be made for VNAF Board approval in early April, 2022. Grant period will start at the date of award.

Timeline for Reporting:

Discussion of grant progress for year 1 at approximately 10-14 months after award; Discussion of grant progress for year 2 at approximately 22-26 months (where applicable).

Two info sessions for applicants: 6/16 and 6/23
Also, contact us to discuss ideas!

INCLUSION GRANTS: PROCESS (LOI)

Letter of Intent (LOI) - Please share* the following:

Tell us about the people to be served in your project

e.g. People of color, Immigrants, English Language Learners, etc., approximate number of people, where they are in the Greater North Penn area.

Discuss your Readiness

Are you currently serving this population(s)? If not, are there steps you want to take first, to gain greater understanding of the culture(s), build relationships and create a welcoming environment? **

Summarize the situation facing the people you will serve

- How has COVID-19 affected your specific population's health and access to health/human service resources?
- How have racial/ethnic barriers further complicated this?

**If you prefer to provide this LOI information via phone/zoom, please contact Diana at 215-847-4401 to schedule a conversation (Phone translation services available)*

*** If further research is needed to ensure that the community is interested in this kind of help, you may apply for up to \$2500 in a Research grant to gauge interest in proposed activities.*

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INCLUSION GRANTS: PROCESS (LOI)

Letter of Intent (LOI) - Please share* the following:

Describe the project that would help the people you will serve

- Which specific access issue(s) would you address? (e.g. vaccination, mental health, food security, etc.)
- What activities would you undertake to increase access to health/human service resources for each specific community?
- Why are you suggesting this approach?
- Has the community indicated an interest in this work?*

Indicate who would help you in this work

- Who would your partners be? (formal, informal)
- What other groups/organizations/individuals/communities would you connect with to make these activities happen?

**If you prefer to provide this LOI information via phone/zoom, please contact Diana at 215-847-4401 to schedule a conversation (Phone translation services available)*

*** If further research is needed to ensure that the community is interested in this kind of help, you may apply for up to \$2500 in a Research grant to gauge interest in proposed activities.*

INCLUSION GRANTS: PROCESS (APPLICATION)

LOIs will be reviewed on a monthly basis. LOIs may be:

- 1) Approved
- 2) Referred for further research (up to \$2500 available), or
- 3) Denied

If your LOI is approved, you will be welcome to complete a **brief Application, which will ask for the following:**

- Amount of request (up to \$15,000/year for up to 2 years)
 - How funds would be utilized (project budget)
 - Implementation timeline (approximate steps along the way)
 - Goals for the project (targets for increased access, plans for service, indicators of impact)
 - Relevant personnel (including partners)
 - 990/Financials
- **See Reporting timeline on earlier slide.**

If you prefer to provide this Application information via phone/zoom, please contact Diana at 215-847-4401 to schedule a conversation (Phone translation services available)

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NEXT STEPS:

THINKING ABOUT PROJECT IDEAS?

REACH OUT TO US IF YOU WANT TO DISCUSS BEFORE APPLYING!

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LOI and Application go live July 1, 2021

Apply anytime before March 1, 2022

www.npvnafoundation.org