

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH)



The following outlines Telligen Community Initiative's approach to providing community-based funding support in 2024. We are continuing to use a one-step application to allow for a quicker turnaround time and a better opportunity for applicants to detail their project application. Telligen Community Initiative (TCI) will also continue to utilize an online portal to support a streamlined application process and positive applicant user experience.

The following document outlines our funding approach and application process. All four (4) states may apply for this deadline for our new Strengthening Families and Communities application. We are again having two grant deadlines in 2024 and they will continue to be staged by funding priority as opposed to targeted states. There is a single deadline for our new Strengthening Families and Communities projects—July 2. Our Health Workforce Development priority and sub-priority approaches are very similar to the past several years and those applications are due March 5. Our Social Determinants of Health approach is significantly different and more condensed. We are only planning to focus those philanthropic resources on the intersection of Social Determinants of Health and within the context of work to build resiliency of youth and families. This is intentional to provide a greater focus of our support and narrow the applicant pool. Thank you for your valuable community-based work and comparing our funding interests to your efforts. The Health Workforce Development RFP is due on March 5, 2024, and that application process is highlighted in a separate RFP.



ABOUT TELLIGEN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Telligen Community Initiative (TCI) is a private, non-profit foundation originated by Telligen, Inc. TCI works from a vision of helping empower organizations and citizens to improve their individual and overall community health. Our mission is to initiate and support innovative and forward-looking health-related projects aimed at improving health, social well-being, and educational attainment.

Our philanthropy is done within the strategic funding priorities of:

1. Social determinants of health as highlighted within this RFP.
2. Health workforce development (separate RFP due by March 5, 2024).

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

TCI wants to advance a framework that brings together health care delivery systems, public health agencies, community organizations and health educators to improve health. We seek to be a foundation that works to create and sustain collaborations where health responsibility is shared, more equitable, and accountable by all. TCI philanthropy seeks to provide catalytic funding to those that share this belief and can spread its adoption. The following represents guiding principles for our approach to philanthropic support:

- Every person—especially the most vulnerable members of our communities—deserves health education and services.
- Many factors shape health and health outcomes (social determinants of health), putting a premium on prevention and integration of health with other community stakeholders and sectors.
- Active and intentional collaboration with others that share common ground, views, and beliefs.
- When possible, we would like to support regional health and education efforts that reach multi-county or even statewide audiences.

During our 18-year history, we have funded many worthwhile projects and initiatives. We have learned the most effective way to make change and have the greatest impact is to take a more upstream focus and definition of health. We are again utilizing a per grant ceiling of up to a \$75,000 amount. This view informs our resulting community support investments. To read about successful previously funded grants, please visit our website (www.telligenci.org) or you are always encouraged to contact TCI staff to discuss your project idea to see if we have recently funded similar projects.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| About Telligen Community Initiative..... | 2 |
| 2024 Request For Proposals | 3 |
| Strengthening Families and Community Health..... | 4 |
| Technical Assistance | 7 |
| Geographic Project Reach..... | 7 |
| Eligibility..... | 7 |
| How To Apply | 8 |
| Contact Information | 9 |
| 2024 Grant Schedule | 9 |



2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TCI funding for 2024 will continue to focus on improving the health of communities within the context of specific funding priority areas. These priority areas were identified to define TCI's community responsive grant programming more thoroughly to produce more specific themes within our priority areas, and to enhance the portability and replication potential of similarly themed projects across Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma communities.

- We continue to believe in multiple funding mechanisms that strive to meet applicants where they are in their work and evolution. This could encompass multiple themes or forms of support.
- First-dollar, programmatic, or seed funding to nonprofit organizations or governmental entities is a powerful contribution TCI can make to positively impact health status.
- This funding can also be positioned to provide support for critical work of an organization in strong alignment with our funding priorities.
- Expansion or spread of already impactful and successful approaches you are doing to other populations or geography.
- This funding could also support meaningful capacity building of an organization to better deliver its work or mission that strongly aligns with TCI funding priorities.

We want to meet you where your work is currently positioned and contribute to the successful advancement of your mission.

CHANGES FOR 2024

In 2024, our funding emphasis will encompass the following approaches:

1. **All states are eligible for each of our two (2) funding cycles. The second cycle is for our interest in strengthening families and communities within the context of social determinants of health-based projects (due July 2, 2024) and the second is for our health workforce development-based projects (due March 5, 2024).**
2. **We are maintaining our Social Determinants of Health funding interests around emphasizing the integration of childhood, family, and community health in new ways for our foundation. TCI wants to resource efforts that advance optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for families, children and youth in the four states TCI supports. Community work and projects TCI seeks to support will be the only types of projects considered. The opportunity is discussed in this RFP offering. A separate RFP describes our Health Workforce Development opportunity and areas of emphasis. We have also elevated the per grant maximum award size to \$75,000.**
3. **We are pleased with funding at a slightly more impactful level and will maintain the elevated per grant maximum award size of \$75,000.**

TCI is providing a greater focus on the types of projects we are most interested in funding in 2024. This offers a tighter set of desired projects under each of the two funding priorities. Each Request for Proposals (RFP) discusses this further. It is hoped this will help both focus our work further and intentionally decrease the applicant pool to only those whose work more directly aligns with the project types that the RFP solicits. The following discusses our social determinants of health priority area. This encompasses a brief description about the funding areas and a list of ways that projects could be positioned for funding consideration – themes about the types of grants TCI will fund in 2024. You will hopefully find significant room to align your work to these strategic areas. We have tried to highlight the response within each sub-category discussion from the 2023 applicant pool.

We want to foster innovation and creativity. However, we are expecting grantees to follow these strategies, and customize them more around localized need and spread potential, as opposed to other project types. TCI will prioritize its philanthropic support within the sub-priorities offered and discussed within this RFP.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

PRIORITY OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION: As many disparate health outcomes remain significant challenges for so many communities, a deeper understanding of the social determinants of health, and what forces underlie their distribution, is necessary. There is a need to include the terms “structural determinants of health” and “root causes of inequities” when considering how to stage opportunities for resource commitments in communities. Structural determinants are the root causes of health inequities because they shape the quality of communities. Structural determinants include the governing process, economic and social policies that affect pay, working conditions, housing, living environment, and education. TCI would like to utilize our interest in the social determinants of health to help resource preventive and upstream investments in community health around root cause issues that help those in greatest need according to race, gender, social class, geography, sexual orientation, or other socially defined group of people.

With this Request for Proposals, TCI seeks to emphasize the integration of childhood, family, and community health in new ways for our foundation. TCI wants to resource efforts that advance optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for families, children and youth in the four states that TCI supports. We will prioritize reaching caregivers of people of color and for families with limited financial resources – in rural, frontier, or urban settings. Programs supported can be advancing established evidence-based programs or the refinement of emerging and promising community-based practices. Below are the targeted areas that TCI wants to advance with our philanthropy in this RFP within the Social Determinants of Health. It is also accompanied by illustrative examples of what programmatic efforts and success indicators could be built around. The potential focus or indicators of success are not prescribed or limited to what could be requested for TCI consideration by an applicant. They are just examples meant to stimulate thought, and meet your community needs, and work where our funding could be

most impactful to your plan. The overall part of the Social Determinants of Health around which we want to position our funding is strengthening families and efforts that could build family and community resiliency and enhancement of protective factors. These are the only funding themes we intend to support with TCI grant awards.

PRE-PREGNANCY AND PREGNANCY (HEALTHY BIRTHS):

Prenatal care is the health care that a pregnant woman or woman contemplating a pregnancy receives. Our funding is predicated around the necessity of accessing and receiving culturally appropriate early prenatal care and overall skill and capacity building around reproductive health.

Potential focus and what indicators of success could be predicated around:

- Building individual and community capacity to reduce rates of unintended pregnancies.
- Efforts to educate around STI and HIV prevention, as well broader sexual health literacy efforts to empower youth to make informed decisions around sexual activity.
- Efforts to assist in emerging best practices around contraception education and access for underserved and rural populations.
- Increasing the number of pregnant women receiving early and regular prenatal care.
- Enhancing the rate of children attending well child visits birth to 5 years of age.
- Building capacity to implement culturally appropriate outreach and programming efforts to improve low birth weight outcomes for underserved populations.

Continued ➤



SCHOOL READINESS AND SCHOOL HEALTH: School readiness is foundational across early childhood systems and programs. It means children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children and positioned to promote health and healthy development via an educational setting.

Potential focus and what indicators of success could be predicated around:

- Resourcing efforts to help ensure proper screening and programming to increase likelihood of child developmental milestones being met.
- Advancing Reach Out and Read or similar efforts that advance early pediatric literacy/print-rich environments or parents modeling reading, as well as programming and supports to eventually achieve 3rd grade reading proficiency.
- Enhancing the work, programming, and organizational capacity of school-based health centers to be access points for pediatric health – utilizing education settings as health promotion venues.

HEALTHY PARENTING SKILL DEVELOPMENT/STRENGTHENING FAMILY

SUPPORTS: Parents and caregivers give their children a good start in life. They nurture, protect, and guide them. Parenting is a process that prepares children for independence (as delivered by a biological parent or trusted caregiver/other family member). As your children grow and develop, there are many things that parents and caregivers do to help their children socialize and develop. TCI wants to help advance best practices in parenting skill development and efforts to positively support families and their journeys.

Potential focus and what indicators of success could be predicated around:

- Supporting the resourcing of effective home visitation programming to strengthen parenting skill development.

- Screening for and connections to needed social services and support to augment clinical care needs (social determinants screening and closed loop community referrals).
- Advancing fatherhood efforts, in addition to maternal child health programming, to increase parenting capacity of families/family units.
- Supporting efforts around later aged youth aging out of typical supports around housing/homelessness, social services, or educational or vocational pursuits to be better positioned to achieve a livable wage.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs) PREVENTION/PROTECTIVE

FACTORS: Protective factors and adverse childhood experiences are frameworks utilized in prevention efforts to reduce the risk of maltreatment and prevent the recurrence of abuse or neglect by drawing upon the strengths of families and acknowledging traumatic events. Protective factors are conditions or attributes, that when present in families and communities, increase the well-being of children and families, and reduce the likelihood of maltreatment.

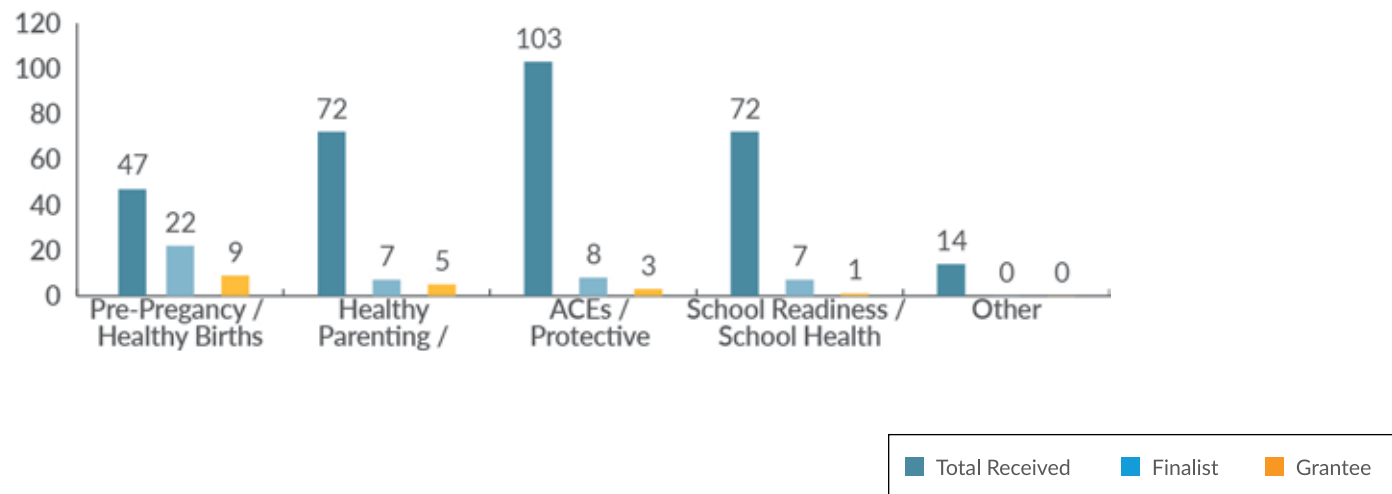
Potential focus and what indicators of success could be predicated around:

- Increasing the number of children screened for ACEs and referred for effective services (via programming such as Medical-Legal Partnerships or other clinical or educational intervention settings).
- Enhancing the number of adults linked to family-centered treatment approaches that include substance abuse treatment, parenting interventions, housing/homelessness intervention, or efforts to promote avoidance of gun or gang activity exposure.
- Resourcing programs that enhance connections to caring adults and increase parents' and youth skills to manage emotions and conflicts using approaches in schools, childcare, and other settings .



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS – FOCUS

Below please find a visual graphic that depicts the applicant pool response to this funding opportunity versus these Strengthening Families and Communities RFP sub-priority areas during the 2023 TCI funding year. The first bar depicts the number of proposals received during 2023 in that sub-priority area. The second bar depicts the number of finalist proposals (proposals meeting a high threshold score in that funding cycle – typically above 90% versus our scoring rubric). The third bar depicts the number of grantees awarded in each funding area.





TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Not only is contact with TCI staff acceptable, but it is also strongly encouraged. Approximately two-thirds of our applicant pool contacted TCI staff to discuss some facet of their proposal prior to submission. This could take the form of a face-to-face (virtual) meeting, phone meeting, email conversation, review of a draft proposal, or other desired assistance in helping you or your coalition consider an application. Making contact is not a requirement and your proposal will not be advantaged or hurt in the scoring process for having a pre-submission discussion (or not). Staff is in place to help you create as competitive a proposal as possible to compete for limited funding support. Consider how you want to use them.



GEOGRAPHIC PROJECT REACH

As an applicant, TCI firmly believes in your ability to define what community means to you. For most of our applicants, this takes on some form of geography. An applicant could also decide to focus that definition or discussion around a group or type of person(s) or special populations.

From a geographic standpoint, you are free to define community in the way you deem best fits your application and proposed grant work. This could be a neighborhood, zip code, or census track, city, county, multi-county area or even statewide reach. All approaches will be welcomed.

This could also be positioned from a targeted population standpoint (and not geographic). All this to convey, we want to meet you where you are. We also desire to support rural projects more intentionally whenever possible. Regardless of geographic focus, we want to fund projects that show clear connection to localized community need and can demonstrate clear and demonstratable community or stakeholder involvement and impact.

ELIGIBILITY

To request a grant, your organization must be a recognized as a federally tax-exempt section 501(c)(3) charitable organization, an accredited school, or a public/ governmental agency located in the states of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, or Oklahoma.

Note: a public agency is an organization established and primarily funded by a unit of government. Examples could include a public school, public library, local public health department, or state governmental agency. Note that TCI does not fund organizations with a pending 501(c)(3) status.

HOW TO APPLY

ONLINE GRANT APPLICATION PORTAL: TCI will continue the use of an online application portal. All materials will be available and linked from our website (www.telligenci.org).

The portal has a full user guide with instructions. There are character limits, but they correspond well to the past length of our one-step application processes. There are character counters that count down as you develop your responses. There are save-and-return features that allow you to not have to complete your application in a single session. It is designed to be both intuitive and user-friendly.

Upon successful completion, your proposal contact will receive confirmation of receipt from TCI staff.

TCI asks that your narrative be brief, but more importantly, provide a succinct and thorough presentation of the need or problem you have identified, the proposed solution, and your organization's qualifications for implementing that solution. The application portal has the following sections/elements:

TCI APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Applicant Information: This will include primary contact information, address, website, and tax status. This will also encompass a brief equity survey for your organization which is to establish a baseline of our applicant field and not as a decision-making criteria for your proposal.

Program/Project Information: This will include project title, TCI funding priority alignment, funding request amount, a brief summary of project, and county of applicant/geographic reach of the project (by county). This will also ask for a total number of persons served by your project and a short narrative rationale and context for that number.

GRANT NARRATIVE:

Summary of your organization: Please give a brief description of your organization, including your current capacity (knowledge, resources, and/or services to successfully implement your strategy). (1,500-character limit).

Synopsis of need: Describe the problem and/or need that you are developing an innovative strategy to address. Please include your target population, how many people and/or organizations you estimate serving during the project period, and any localized data. (3,000-character limit).

Project design: Describe the strategy you have created to address this problem (including methodology and implementation plan). (3,000-character limit).

The why: Explain how this project relates to your organization's overall mission. Why is your organization passionate about this? (3,000-character limit).

Uniqueness: Explain the innovation or uniqueness your plan brings to this work to try to help ensure successful implementation. (1,500-character limit).

Evaluation template: You will be asked to develop three (minimum) to five (maximum) SMARTIE objectives in the framework of an evaluation template as it relates to your project's evaluation method and measurement.

Budget template: Please complete the budget template as it relates to your proposed grant request for TCI consideration. This template is available within our application portal. You will only be expected to complete the portion related to your TCI funding request. There is a way to demonstrate matching funds within the budget template, but that is not a funding requirement. Upon completion of the budget template, you can then upload your completed document within the portal. There is then the chance to offer a brief budget narrative and justification of the budget you submit. (1,500-character limit).

Organizational capacity: Describe your organizational capacity to manage grant funding and a discussion of potential sustaining funding (sources/methodology) regarding the overall funding needs of this program/project. (2,000-character limit).

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are considering a grant request or have questions about the grant process, please feel free to contact TCI staff for further assistance.

Upon release of the RFP, please feel comfortable and encouraged to reach out to TCI staff to discuss your proposal idea further and determine if you'll proceed in developing an application for one of our deadlines and/or how to make your concept as competitive as possible.



Matt McGarvey
Executive Director
mmcgarvey@telligenci.org
515/554-2908



2024 GRANT CYCLES:

This TCI funding opportunity encompasses support for projects within Iowa, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Colorado. These four (4) states represent our primary states of focus. Applications from all four (4) states will function with a per grant request maximum of \$75,000. We see this level of funding being more necessary to achieve most scopes of work coming to us for consideration, yet still be an amount that can hopefully be absorbed, or additional funding secured to meaningfully sustain beyond the life of our initial TCI grant period. All current TCI grants are for periods of one year. Please see the below funding calendar for 2024 with all four states able to apply in each deadline grouping – based on funding priority alignment begin pursued.

| | Health Workforce Development-based applications (\$75,000 per grant request ceiling) | Strengthening Families and Community Health-based applications (\$75,000 per grant request ceiling) |
|---|--|---|
| Proposal due date to TCI (portal completion) | March 5, 2024 | July 2, 2024 |
| Grant period begins / funding received | July 1, 2024 | December 1, 2024 |