

Funding Opportunity: OMH Releases Solicitation to Develop National Infrastructure for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – May 4, 2020

On May 1, the Office of Minority Health (OMH), located within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), released a solicitation with a total project budget of \$40 million to support the development and coordination of a national-state/territorial/tribal-local network of public and community-based organizations that will disseminate COVID-19-related information; disseminate effective response, recovery and resilience strategies; and ensure service linkages for racial and ethnic minority, rural and disadvantaged communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Full applications are due **May 11, 2020 by 6:00 PM ET**. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit institutions of higher education and research and U.S. territories.

OMH is particularly interested in mechanisms and strategies that support effective communication of and access to services for racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable populations highly impacted by COVID-19 and that address risk factors associated with greater susceptibility for COVID-19 and worse health outcomes. Engaging community-based organizations that are trusted messengers within these communities is critical to ensuring the rapid coordination and connection of racial and ethnic minority communities with culturally and linguistically diverse information and needed healthcare and social services to mitigate the effects of public health crises like COVID-19.

OMH expects funding to be used to:

1. Develop a strategic information dissemination network of national, state, tribal, territorial and local organizations who are trusted and usual information sources for racial and ethnic minority, rural and disadvantaged communities, including State Offices of Minority Health;
2. Develop and disseminate culturally and linguistically diverse multi-media outreach and education, via a variety of communication methods, through the information dissemination network;
3. Identify states/tribes/territories with geographic high impact areas of racial and ethnic minority, rural and disadvantaged individuals at substantially greater risk for COVID-19 infection and adverse outcomes (e.g., due to prevalence of underlying health conditions such as hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and COPD/lung disease; structural and systemic barriers to physical distancing; challenges to accessing healthcare and social services; etc.);
4. Partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) who are trusted voices within these high impact areas to disseminate public health messaging and link at-risk individuals to testing, healthcare and social services;
5. Identify and disseminate successful state, tribal, territorial and local strategies addressing immediate response, recovery and resilience for racial and ethnic minority, rural and disadvantaged populations;
6. Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and quality improvement plan; and
7. Document and disseminate project findings, including successes and lessons learned.

Deadline: Full applications are due **May 11, 2020 by 6:00 PM ET**.

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Award Information: OMH will fund one award annually for a project period of up to 3 years and up to a total project budget of \$40,000,000. Successful applicants will be required to meet performance metrics developed with and agreed to by OMH.

Eligibility: All entities are eligible except for-profit institutions of higher education and for-profit organizations including small businesses. Eligible applicants include the U.S. territories, public and private non-profit institutions of higher education and research.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full funding opportunity can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=326613>.