health sciences & services authority of spokane county

Access To Care Grants:

Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County promotes bioscience based economic development and advances new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health.

HSSA is a Public Development Authority and was created in 2007 by Washington State RCW 35.10435.104, and Spokane County Resolution 7-1054. Our duties, priorities, and policy were created by Washington State RCW 3.104.060 104.060 , Spokane County Resolution 8-1056 and renewed until 2038 by Spokane County Resolution 2021-0055.

HSSA's priorities are:

1. Provide better health and health care in Spokane County.
2. Create well-paying jobs in Spokane County.
3. Power future growth in Spokane County.

Contact Information:

Info@hssaspokane.org

421 W Riverside Avenue, Suite 661
Spokane, Washington 99201

Overview and Scope

Minimum Award Amount	$30,000
Maximum Award Amount	$150,000
Award Period	12 Months
Eligibility	Nonprofit and Government Entities
Expected Outcomes	Better health and healthcare in Spokane County.

Each year, HSSA of Spokane County dedicates 15% of its revenue to support the uninsured, underinsured and at risk in Spokane County. The budget for this grant cycle is $712,500.

HSSA seeks qualified applicants to help provide better health and health care in Spokane County to people who are uninsured, underinsured or at risk, lower health care costs in Spokane County and improve Spokane County's health care system using Penchansky and Thomas' characteristics of access to care: affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability.

It is HSSA's goal to address Spokane County's top health priorities as identified in the 2024-2025 Community Health Needs Assessment, 2025 Quality of Life Survey, State of Women and Children Report, individuals impacted by changing Medicaid Health Insurance regulations, support welcoming and affirming care for people who have been disproportionately impacted by health disparities, and to create positive experiences for young people and their families to create positive health outcomes.

Spokane County's identified top health priorities are:

- Reduce the housing cost burden (HSSA will focus on addressing households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing costs)
- Reduce substance use
- Improve mental health

The Grant Award Agreement is one year in length.

Grant Matching Fund Requirements:

There are no matching fund requirements for this funding opportunity.

Grant Award and Use of Funds:

The Grant Award Agreement is one year/twelve months in length. Please review the Grant Award Agreement prior to submitting your application to certify the terms are agreeable to you.

- Cost Reimbursement Contracting:
    - Only costs identified in your budget are eligible for reimbursement with HSSA grant dollars.
    - Only costs incurred after your Grant Award Agreement is fully executed (signed by both parties) are eligible for reimbursement with HSSA grant dollars.
    - Awardees will receive reimbursement after a cost has been incurred.
    - Reimbursement payments are available monthly.

Reimbursements for personnel costs are only eligible if the employee has a primary residence in Spokane County. Evidence of this will be submitted in the form of employee pay stubs. Professional services contractors must be located in Spokane County.

Reporting Requirements:

Semi-Annual narrative reports are required of grantees. These reports require the grantee to submit information about staffing and salaries, progress toward milestones established in your application, collaborations and partnerships, patents, presentations, publications and press, and other information.

Scoring and Review Process:

HSSA strives for clear and consistent communication regarding our scoring and review process. Therefore, we have made our scoring rubric available to view. Please review the document to view HSSA's general eligibility requirements, and scoring requirements related to better health and healthcare.

- Review Process Phase One: HSSA's staff review the application to assure eligibility requirements have been met.
- Review Process Phase Two: HSSA's Grants Committee (consisting of HSSA Board Trustees) review applications and score them individually.
- Review Process Phase Three: HSSA's staff review cumulative scores and determine top scoring applicants.
- Review Process Phase Four: Grants Committee meets to finalize recommendations to the Board of Trustees.
- Review Process Phase Five: The Grants Committee briefs the full Board of Trustees on applications, making recommendations for funding decisions. The full Board of Trustees votes to approve or deny applications at a scheduled Board meeting.

Further Information:

Economic development and regional health outcomes are key components of evaluation. You may wish to reference the following reports and their key findings.

- 2023 Spokane Regional Life Science Asset and Landscape Study
- Spokane Community Health Needs Assessment
- Access to Care Characteristics
- Bold Goals for US Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing
- TrippUmbach Economic Impact Study
- EWU Health Impact Study
- Spokane County Quality of Life Survey
- Spokane Trends
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Spokane Region
- State of Women and Children Report
- Vision 2030
- Bio 21
- Spokane Regional Health District Data and Reports

As questions, concerns or roadblocks arise please contact Executive Director Erin Williams Hueter to schedule an in person or virtual appointment utilizing the contact information given above.

RFP Updates
The HSSA reserves the right to amend or terminate any Request for Proposal after its release. Any clarifications or changes in guidelines or requirements will be reduced in writing and sent to those submitting responses to the RFP.

Applicants are responsible for consulting amendments to be sure they have the latest information.

Confidentiality and Public Disclosure
Information in grant applications is received by HSSA with the understanding that it shall be used or disclosed solely for evaluation of applications or as required by law. HSSA holds all

applications confidential in accordance with its confidentiality and subject to the public disclosure laws of the State of Washington. (For more information about Washington public disclosure law, applicants are referred to RCW 42.56 and to the amendments to the exemption provisions in RCW 42.56.270(14).)
Applicants responding to any RFP are hereby put on notice that their responses are public records and may be subject to public disclosures under the state's Public Disclosure Act codified in chapter 42.56 RCW. Provided, however, the Public Disclosure Act contains various exemptions with regard to some information contained in the RFP. They include:

(18) Financial, commercial, operations and technical and research information and data submitted to or obtained by a health sciences and services authority in applications for, or delivery of, grants under RCW 35.104.010 through 35.104.060, to the extent that such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to providers of this information is exempt from disclosure.

Please MARK all information provided in your proposal which falls into the above provisions or any other applicable provisions in the Public Disclosure Act which you feel are applicable to your proposal in response to the HSSA RFP. You will be notified of any public disclosure request regarding your proposal and be afforded an opportunity to provide further information specifying why the information is exempted from disclosure under the above provision or any other application exemption from disclosure.

Typically, when it receives proposals, HSSA will release to the public the name of the sponsor, the applicant organization, the title of the project, the dates of the proposed grant period, the funding amount requested, and miscellaneous contact and demographic data. For unfunded applications, HSSA will not release the abstract or narrative of the proposed work, the budget, or any identifiers regarding co-applicant organizations, as disclosure of these items might be reasonably expected to result in private loss to the applicant organizations.
Once a proposal has been funded, HSSA will release to the public certain additional information from the application, including an abstract of the work and the names and contact information of any co-investigators or co-applicant organizations.

In response to a public disclosure request for a funded application under Washington State law, HSSA may provide further information from the application to the requester, but only to the extent that provision of such information would reasonably not be expected to result in private loss to the providers of such information.
If HSSA receives a public records request for a funded or unfunded application, it will notify the applicant organization of such a request in a timely manner in order to allow the organization the opportunity to assert objections to disclosure in any applicable proceeding.

Conflict of Interest
When performing HSSA-funded research or increasing infrastructure capacity for research, it is essential that the personal interests of investigators or the proposal proponents do not impede their judgment or compromise their objectivity. Even the perception of a conflict of interest has the potential to erode the public's confidence in the research process. It is essential that applicant organizations have a financial conflict of interest policy in place and that all proposals submitted to HSSA have been vetted according to that policy. In accepting an award, the applicant organization will certify to HSSA in the grant agreement that potential financial conflicts of personnel participating in the funded research or infrastructure project have been

disclosed and that all conflicts have been eliminated or mitigated. Applicant organizations that do not have a financial conflict of interest policy should consult with HSSA early in the application process to discuss how the financial conflict of interest review will be performed.

Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animal Research Requirements
If a project will include research involving human subjects, the research site must operate under an appropriate Office of Human Research Protections-approved assurance for the protection of human subjects. Its procedures must also comply with all Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) human-subjects-related policies. In accepting an award from HSSA, an organization certifies that it has a system that complies with federal, state and local government regulations to protect the rights, well-being and personal privacy of human subjects in research and that any HSSA-funded research involving human subjects has been reviewed and approved by the applicants' human subjects oversight bodies.
For research involving vertebrate animals, the applicant organization must ensure that all performance sites hold Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare-approved assurances.

In accepting an award from HSSA, an organization certifies that it has a system that complies with federal, state and local government regulations to humanely, efficiently, effectively and legally use live vertebrate animals in research. Further, it certifies that HSSA-funded research involving vertebrate animals has been reviewed and approved by the applicable animal use and care oversight bodies.
Any HSSA-funded research involving human subjects or vertebrate animals will need to have been reviewed and approved prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Intellectual Property
Project involving multiple collaborating organizations must be supported by an agreement that makes explicit provision for the disposition of IP rights among the organizations. Such an agreement must clearly allocate the rights that the organizations will have in any IP developed during HSSA-funded research and identify which of the organizations will be responsible for commercialization. The IP rights disposition agreement does not need to be submitted with the proposal but must be in place before the grant agreement is signed. One example of an appropriate agreement for this purpose can be found in the Federal Small Business Technology Transfer Research Program – “The Allocation of Rights in Intellectual Property and Rights in Intellectual Property and Rights to Carry out Follow-On Research, Development, or Commercialization”:

Reporting Requirements
HSSA grants are an investment by Spokane County and the State of Washington in the future of its citizens. Full and timely reporting of the progress and results of funded research by principal investigators has great importance for calculating the returns on that investment. Reporting requirements, specific for each funded proposal, will be finalized in the grant agreement. HSSA requires the following reports: semi-annual progress reports, annual financial reports, final project and financial reports, and post-project annual reports for a period of five years. Site visits and in-person briefings from principal investigators may be used by HSSA as tools to track the progress of funded projects.

Publicity
HSSA reserves the right to publicly disseminate information about its granting activities. HSSA communications to the public may include lists of LOIs and proposals received, the names of

principal investigators and applicant organizations, project titles, the field(s) in which the research will be conducted, descriptions of proposals funded, and reports about project progress and outcomes. Recipient organizations and principal investigators will be expected to provide the HSSA with reasonable assistance in communicating funded research and its impacts on the public.

Funding Start Date
Funds will not be authorized for expenditure by HSSA until the grant agreement between HSSA and the recipient organization is completed.

Cost Reimbursement Contracting
Grant Award Agreements are cost reimbursement contracts. Awardees will be required to submit documentation of expenses commensurate with their finalized grant award budget including invoices, payroll information, and receipts. Reimbursement Requests can be submitted as often as monthly, though some awardees choose quarterly, semi-annual or annual submission. Reimbursement Requests received by HSSA by the twentieth of the month will be reimbursed at the end of that month.

Code of Ethics
The Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) Board is comprised of three (3) County appointees, three (3) City of Spokane appointees, three (3) members appointed by the Governor, and up to five (5) members appointed by the Board. The HSSA is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the purpose of promoting bioscience-based economic development and advancing new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health as provided for in chapter 35.104 RCW. The HSSA Board has all powers and duties as set forth in RCW 35.104.060 including among others the making and executing of agreements, contacts, and other instruments with public and private entities or persons in accordance with chapter 35.104 RCW.