

request for proposals leveraging collaboration to end domestic violence

Important Dates

Informational Webinar:

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (PST)

[Register for the webinar](#)

Proposals Due:

By 5:00 p.m. (PST), Monday,

October 1, 2018

Notification of Grant Awards:

December 2018

Grant Start Date:

January 1, 2019

Contact Information

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1. Background

Blue Shield of California Foundation's Mission: To build lasting and equitable solutions that make California the healthiest state and end domestic violence.

In order for all Californians to be healthy and live free from domestic violence, people from a wide range of backgrounds, professions, and sectors will need to come together to help solve the deeply-rooted drivers and obstacles that continue to limit our progress on prevailing social issues like domestic violence. It will require us to engage diverse perspectives, leverage individual and collective resources, and work together to create new solutions that are built

around the lived experiences and input of the people and communities who are affected most.

This type of collaboration, often called “multisector” or “cross-sector” collaboration, has increased significantly in recent years, with non-traditional partners joining forces to address complex issues such as educational success, environmental sustainability, and health disparities. Most collaborations have been transactional, mainly formed to communicate information or coordinate services across organizations. The collaborations that our Foundation is particularly interested in are the mighty few that are systems-change oriented. They are formed to integrate diverse resources, committed to shared learning and outcomes, and collectively have greater power to influence the social, cultural, and structural forces that hold complex problems in place.

The Collaboration Spectrum



Adapted from The Tamarack Institute. [Tool: The Collaboration Spectrum](#). July 2017.

The Foundation has gained experience from past investments and understands the power of multisector collaboration to create healthier communities. We know less about how to apply this model to the prevention of domestic violence and its impact on multiple generations.

In 2017, the Foundation commissioned a survey, which showed that 58 percent of Californians have been touched by domestic violence – either as a victim, a harm doer, or through a close friend or family member. This type of violence is characterized as physical, psychological, sexual, or financial manipulation committed by an intimate partner or family member. It can also occur in the form of neglect and forced isolation.

Traditionally, preventing domestic violence has rested on the shoulders of domestic violence service agencies and the criminal justice system – both of

which are primarily relied upon to provide crisis support after violence has already occurred. Yet extensive research from the [Prevention Institute](#) tells us that it is extremely rare that domestic violence results from a single incident or moment of crisis. Instead, domestic violence stems from a complex constellation of risk factors including income inequality and poverty, education, social marginalization, weak social support networks, harmful gender and cultural norms, and more. The Foundation's work with the [Full Frame Initiative](#) also revealed that domestic violence survivors want approaches that focus not only on crisis situations, but also broader healing and prevention for themselves, their families, and generations to come. There is a clear need for more prevention and "upstream" solutions that upset the cycle of violence all together. Borrowing from a framework often use in public health, prevention strategies are generally focused on three target groups:



We also know that domestic violence almost always occurs in a cycle, such that children exposed to violence and child abuse are far more likely to be involved in unsafe relationships later in lifetime. It is because of this fact that we are especially interested in prevention strategies that consider a two-generation framework (e.g., parents to children).

Given the complexity of the risk factors at play at multiple stages along an individual's lifespan, successfully preventing domestic violence will require *engagement from many sectors* - all of which touch our lives in different ways, influence our ability to thrive, and all of which have the power to change the way that our systems currently operate to make change possible for the future.

2. The Opportunity

As part of our *Collaborating for Healthy Communities and Breaking the Cycle of Violence Initiative*, Blue Shield of California Foundation is soliciting proposals that seek to answer the question: **How can multisector collaboration help break the cycle of domestic violence?** Specifically, how can we leverage dynamic cross-sector efforts – in concert with community voices and engagement – to mitigate the factors and conditions that fuel and perpetuate domestic violence?

The desired outcomes of this work are:

- To better understand how collaboration can help us more effectively address complex issues like domestic violence;
- To learn more about what it takes to convince other sectors to engage around an issue that is still often considered “private” but actually has a profound impact on multiple parts of a community; and
- To build the evidence base for collaboration as a promising approach to preventing domestic violence.

Through this request for proposals, the Foundation seeks to seed and support multisector collaborations focused on preventing domestic violence from many angles and in new ways. Collaborations may be existing or new. Regardless of status, all collaboratives will be required to involve and engage those impacted – either directly or indirectly - by the issue of domestic violence – to ensure that solutions reflect the realities and lived experiences of those it touches.

This request for proposals represents a significant shift in the Foundation's strategy around domestic violence. While remaining solidly supportive of the field and committed to the issue itself, the Foundation is curious to explore how multisector collaboration could potentially strengthen and advance the field and facilitate prevention. This offering represents one of several new investments to build collaborative capacity among organizations working to improve the safety and well-being of our communities by engaging new stakeholders and systems to help us collectively generate lasting change. The Foundation expects to actively partner with awarded grantees to not only share insights and learning with each other and the field, but to also partner with the Foundation to help shape this initiative as it evolves.

Proposals should focus on employing multisector collaboration as an approach to addressing the systems and risk factors that drive domestic violence. Strong proposals will have an orientation toward the following principles:

- **Family-focused.** Strategies and systems that address and prevent domestic violence are often focused on one population – survivors, harm-doers, or children. Yet, we know that domestic violence has a two-generational

impact. We also know that strong families can create protective factors that lead to safe relationships and resilient communities.

- **Healing and prevention.** Service providers take active roles in addressing the healing needs of survivors after violence occurred, yet they often do not have the bandwidth, the authority, or the resources to drive broader prevention efforts. A dual focus, with the right players positioned to influence and implement prevention work, is critical to ensuring lasting change.
- **Long-term systems transformation.** Prevention of domestic violence is complex and requires us to extend beyond crisis intervention and services to focus more on changing the conditions that hold the problem in place (e.g. policies, practices, funding streams, norms). We recognize that changing these conditions means that we must change the systems that create the conditions in the first place.
- **Lived experience.** Those who have survived or been impacted by domestic violence should be included in the conversation about how to prevent it. The lived experience of people, families, and communities is invaluable to the design of new solutions – providing personal perspective and knowledge to pinpoint causes, identify gaps in services or missed opportunities, and give insights and inspiration to drive success.

3. Use of Funds

Applicants should propose use of funds that best support the long-term success of a collaborative approach to addressing the issue(s) identified. Given the substantial scope of this work, proposals should include a set of activities and milestones related to **planning** and a tentative set of activities and milestones related to **implementation**.

Planning activities and milestones, to be completed no later than 12 months into the grant term, could potentially include but are not limited to:

- Community assessment of needs, assets, and priorities
- Establishment of a collaborative structure, governance, and decision-making processes
- Identification and confirmed engagement of collaborators (sectors, organizations, community leaders, residents, those with lived experience, etc.)
- Definition of shared goals & outcomes
- Development of a portfolio of evidence-based or promising interventions and approaches

- Development of a data strategy (collection, analysis, and application)

Implementation activities and milestones, to be completed by the end of the grant term and informed by the planning phase, could include but are not limited to:

- Refinement of collaborative structure, governance, and decision-making processes
- Expansion of collaborative membership or strategies and approaches to prevention
- Initiation of implementation of a portfolio of evidence-based or promising interventions and approaches
- Ongoing data collection to inform progress and the direction of the collaborative
- Exploration of a shared fund or resource for long-term sustainability

Note: Proposals that focus primarily on direct services and include prevention only as a secondary goal will not be considered for funding.

For more information about what the Foundation does not fund, please visit our [FAQs page](#).

4. Eligibility

Multisector collaboratives based in and serving communities in California are eligible to apply.

Collaboratives should submit only one RFP application from one of the collaborative partners designated by the other members of the group. This designated applicant organization must have the capacity to (1) manage grant funds, including receipt of funds and disbursement of funds, and (2) be the responsible party for the completion of all grant deliverables on behalf of the collaborative.

In addition, the designated applicant organization must:

- Be a nonprofit and tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (IRC) and defined as a public charity under 509(a) 1, 2, or 3 (types I, II, or a functionally integrated type III) or be a governmental, tribal, or public entity.
- Primarily serve Californians.
- For past and current Foundation grantees, meet current grant agreement requirements and be up-to-date on all required reports from previous grants, as applicable.

5. Grant Size, Term and Budget

Grant Size: Average grant size will range from \$200,000 - \$400,000, depending on the scope of the proposal.

Grant Term: 24 months, starting 1/1/2019

Budget: The proposed budget should include all project expenses. In addition, budget and/or budget narrative should:

- Outline proposed activities and outcomes, broken out by **planning phase** and **implementation phase**.
- The Foundation highly values equity and would like budgets to reflect how grant funds will be fairly distributed to collaborative partners and participating stakeholders.
- The Foundation highly values learning with grantees to advance our collective knowledge about how to prevent domestic violence. Budget should reflect how grant funds will be used towards learning and evaluation.
- The Foundation plans to convene grantees for two in-person meetings within California – one in the San Francisco Bay Area and one in the Los Angeles area. Budget should reflect \$6,000 for 3-6 members of your collaborative to attend these events.
- Indirect costs should not exceed 15% of total budget.

6. Proposal Evaluation

Strong proposals will:

- Demonstrate commitment from a set of organizations, stakeholders and/or resident leaders to collaborate toward a shared goal of preventing domestic violence.
- Engage diverse sectors, stakeholders, organizations, and/or resident leaders as part of the proposed collaborative, ideally including those who have not yet engaged in the issue of domestic violence.
- Prioritize learning and listening to survivors, families, and community members to inform your work.
- Reflect some experience and evidence of prior collaboration (not necessarily related to domestic violence).
- Focus on a combination of strategies that address both healing from past violence or trauma and prevention of future violence.
- Describe ideas for systems changes that could shift the conditions that hold the problem of domestic violence in place, rather than focusing on service delivery interventions.

- Include strategies for generating more positive social and cultural norms that promote strong families and communities, healthy relationships, and greater gender equity.
- Include commitment to collect and use data to inform progress, demonstrate value, and help drive the sustainability of the collaborative.
- Contribute new ideas and thinking on how collaborative approaches can sustainably address the complex issue of domestic violence.
- Clearly demonstrate project alignment with the Foundation's values of equity, integrity, partnership, and possibility.

7. How to Apply

The following instructions apply to the designated applicant organization:

- **Existing Fluxx Users:** If you or someone in your organization have previously applied for funding in our Fluxx system, follow the instructions below using your existing login credentials.
 - Click [here](#) using **Google Chrome** internet browser (download Chrome [here](#))
 - Login using your existing user name and password
 - Click [here](#) to reset your password **only if needed**
 - Click [here](#) to download grantee portal instructions on how to apply – once you are in the grantee portal you will select **“Respond to RFP”** under “Apply”
- **New Users:** If you **have not** previously applied for funding with the Foundation in our Fluxx system, follow the instructions below to register and receive login credentials.
 - Click [here](#) using **Google Chrome** internet browser (download Chrome [here](#))
 - Click on the button **“RFP Registration”**
 - Complete registration
 - You will receive a “New User Information” email with login credentials within 24 to 48 hours;
 - Follow email instructions to access the grantee portal; once you are in the portal, click on “Drafts” and select the proposal template that is visible

For technical assistance contact: grants@blueshieldcafoundation.org

1. **Be prepared to answer the following questions**

- Describe the vision and goals of the proposed collaborative.
- Indicate what type of collaboration yours will be based on the Collaboration Spectrum in Section 1.
- Identify the potential social determinant(s) and/or community conditions that this collaborative aims to address.
- Describe what level of prevention your proposal aims to address based on the Prevention Strategies outlined in Section 1.
- Share how you plan to engage those with lived experience in your work.
- Describe any complementary efforts, including other multisector collaboratives in your community or region that could potentially enhance or align with the proposed work.
- Describe the outcomes you expect to achieve by the end of the planning phase.
- Describe the outcomes you expect to achieve by the end of the grant term.
- Describe how the collaborative will be convened and governed.
- Identify the convening entity (also called a backbone or integrator) that will lead and manage the overall collaborative.
- Describe the governance structure.
- Provide a list of committed or potential collaborative partners (specifying which are committed vs. potential).
- Explain the “track record” of committed or potential collaborative partners, noting the history of collaboration with each other or other organizations.
- Please describe any challenges anticipated and any strategies for mitigation.
- Please share what types of technical assistance would be most valuable to building the capacity of your collaborative during the course of this grant (please specify needs that may be unique to the planning phase or implementation phase, if you see a distinction). The Foundation plans to use this information to shape technical assistance offerings and will not use this information in evaluating your proposal.

8. Key Dates

Informational Webinar	September 11, 2018
Proposals Due	October 1, 2018
Proposal Review / Due Diligence	October – November 2018
Notification of Grant Decisions	December 2018
Grant Term Begins	January 1, 2019