2026 – 2027 Healthy Organizations and Healthy Communities Grants Cycle 2
Selection & Funding Overview

I. Executive Summary

IEHPF's responsive grant cycle includes two grant opportunities that run parallel with one another – Healthy Organizations and Healthy Communities. Healthy Organizations grants are focused on supporting individual organization capacity building efforts up to $20k in alignment with IEHPF's Organization Strength goals; Healthy Communities grants are for up to $75k for support of organizations, collaboratives and networks who are working to advance IEHPF's Systems Change goals with support. For more information about these grant opportunities, go to www.iehpfoundation.org/grants.

After a careful review of a one-round application process, IEHP Foundation (IEHPF) staff are seeking Community Impact (CI) Committee approval to fund the 7 organizations/projects listed here in the "FOR APPROVAL Healthy Comms" tab for the recommended funding amounts.

In total, $750,000 will be awarded from the Responsive Grant fund initiative and $70,000 will be awarded from the Vibrant Village (Barstow and San Bernardino) fund initiatives.

To ensure timely communications to the applicants, CI Committee members are asked to submit their approval/comments to Sara Omari via email by 12pm (noon) on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

CI Committee unanimous approval is requested in alignment with IEHPF Board Policy that explicitly states that any grants exceeding $25,000 requires CI Committee approval. All grants are included for the Grant Cycle to allow full insight into the selection process.

Additional information about the organizations that were not selected as final participants is available in the "Denied Applicants" tab on the Excel sheet linked above.

II. Methodology – Selection Process

Initial Request for Applications

A request for applications was announced via social media and email communications in early July 2026, allowing organizations approximately 6 weeks to complete the application. An eligibility quiz was used to determine which organizations were eligible to complete an application. Organizations that applied and were denied funding in Cycle 1 due to evaluation score were ineligible to apply for Cycle 2 funding.

A Virtual Information Session was held on August 5, 2026 to provide more information on the grant opportunity and field questions interested applicants had about the opportunity. In total, 183 individuals attended the Virtual Information Session live and the recording/presentation materials were uploaded to Grants - IEHP Foundation webpage for transparency and access.

In total:

- 104 organizations submitted a complete application
    - Healthy Organizations: 85
    - Healthy Communities: 19

- 30 application submissions were deemed ineligible based on eligibility criteria (e.g., Candid status, organizational budget, participation in other IEHPF grants, etc.)
    - Healthy Organizations: 26
    - Healthy Communities: 4
- 74 organizations were evaluated after due diligence check
    - Healthy Organizations: 58
    - Healthy Communities: 16

Application Evaluation

Each application was reviewed by no less than 2 IEHPF staff evaluators using criteria outlined during the Virtual Information Session. An evaluation rubric was completed by each evaluator, where they evaluated the content of the application across four categories: accountability, results-oriented, connectedness to community and health outcomes. Consideration of priority population and region served were also considered in the final selection to ensure a diverse and equitable portfolio of investments. In total, 33 organizations were recommended by staff to receive funding (full or partial) for their proposed projects. The application approval rate was as follows:

- Overall Application Approval: 45% (33 of 74 grant applications)
    - Healthy Organizations: 45% (26 of 58 grant applications)
    - Healthy Communities: 44% (7 of 16 grant applications)

III. Methodology – Funding

All final funding recommendations were considered incorporating both evaluator feedback and information collected during the application stage. Applicants were asked to indicate whether their project could still move forward with a reduced award, describe the impact of receiving less funding, and identify the minimum viable amount needed to implement their proposal.

All 7 Healthy Communities projects recommended for funding are at a reduced amount of $50,000 each to balance both number of projects supported and viability of projects.

22 Healthy Organizations projects are recommended for full funding; 4 are recommended for reduced amounts.

4 of the 22 Healthy Organizations projects recommended for full funding align with the goals of either Vibrant Village San Bernardino or Vibrant Village Barstow and are recommended to be supported through those funding budgets.

Any projects recommended for funding at a lesser amount are due to evaluator recommendations and a careful review of how reduced funding would affect project outcomes. For each of these selected projects, the reduced award will result in scaled scope; however, the projects can still be launched, expanded, or piloted successfully within the adjusted scope.

IV. Next Steps

- Assuming no major setbacks, all organizations will be notified of their final status on or by Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

- Funds will be remitted to the selected organizations in November 2026, after grant agreement has been signed.
- Public announcement of grantees will be made no later than end of calendar year 2026.
- Grant award cycle will take place from January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027. Site visits will be scheduled with select organizations in order or IEHPF staff and leadership to learn more about the organization/project and build/strengthen relationships with newly funded partners. If CI Committee members are interested in attending a site visit for a particular organization should indicate interest when responding back with approval for grants.
- Impact reports will be submitted by organizations no later than February 4, 2028 – approximately 5 weeks after the end of the grant award cycle.