

Next Generation Public Health Pathways Grant Questions and Answers

Date posted: Tuesday April 29th, 2025

Note: We have accepted all the questions posted, answered them in this document, eliminating duplicate questions.

- 1. I am writing to inquire about the inclusion of sub-awards in the budget for the Next Generation Workforce Development Funding program. I would like to clarify whether the budget for a proposed project can include sub-awards to collaborating institutions or organizations and, if so, what the guidelines are for including them.**
 - a. Yes. We distinguish between sub-award contracts and grants. If you enter into a contract to subcontract, Clause 4.6.2 of the [Grant Agreement](#) is the clause to follow.

 - 2. Could you please provide any details on whether grant sub-awards are permissible under this funding opportunity**
 - a. Yes, they are. MDH must follow these rules as a recipient of the funds, and, when MDH grants federal funds out, MDH becomes responsible for making sure grantees also follow these rules. This oversight continues no matter how many times the money passes through different entities, which means that if you are awarded federal funds from MDH and then subgrant or subcontract those federal dollars out, you would become the “grantor” and be responsible for ensuring your subgrantee/subcontractor follows the rules as well. If you are considering sub-granting or subcontracting out any funds you might be awarded, be sure you understand what this entails.
 - b. For reference, see (eCFR :: 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards), also known as the “Uniform Guidance” at [eCFR :: 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#).

 - 3. Are there any specific budgetary guidelines or limitations for sub-awards and any additional documentation or requirements necessary to include sub-awards?**
 - a. There are no additional guideline or requirements other than what is required in the appropriate grant agreement.
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- 4. Can one organization apply for more than one grant, if the aims of the grant independent and do not overlap whatsoever?**
 - a. Yes, if the programming suggested by each grant application is unique.

- 5. The direction for Section 3, #4 of the Project Narrative seems incomplete. It currently reads: "Clear strategies for continuing successful project components and partnerships to". There seems to be something missing. Else, the "to" may be extraneous. Can you please clarify?**
 - a. There appears to be an incomplete sentence in Section 3, point 4 on page 21 of the RFP. When preparing your application, please interpret this requirement as requesting "Clear strategies for continuing successful project components and partnerships" beyond the grant period. This aligns with the sustainability focus mentioned throughout the RFP. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

- 6. Could funding could be used for student scholarships as part of the pathway program?**
 - a. Funding for tuition, wages or living expenses are not an allowable cost for program participants.

- 7. [Our college] is exploring applying for the Next Generation Public Health Pathways opportunity. We would like to know if graduate student scholarships are an allowable cost.**
 - a. Funding for tuition, wages or living expenses are not an allowable cost for program participants.

- 8. The RFP shows that food is allowed for "program staff" while in travel mode. Can funds be used for program participants for food while in travel mode?**
 - a. Food is generally not allowed. The exception is for staff in travel status, defined according to the grantee's own travel policies (ex. meal reimbursement when traveling for work 50 miles or more away from their work location). Food costs should follow your organization's travel policy.

- 9. We wanted to know if there was a way to watch the April 9th recording? I went to the link in the PDF, but that just opened a new teams meeting. I think that would help us better understand if this funding is a good fit for our programming.**
 - a. An informational webinar was held on April 9, 2025, at 1 p.m. central. Due to technical difficulties the webinar was not recorded. No additional information was shared on the webinar that is not available in the RFP or the RFP website. Answers to questions from that meeting are included in this list.

- 10. For aim #1 ("increase interest in governmental public health careers..."), does MDH define this to include governmental public health careers in health care settings?**

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- a. A focus of the grant is to increase awareness of governmental public health careers in. Depending on what your target audience is and the programming that is suggested, general public health career awareness would be allowable.

11. Given the recent federal funding cuts, we first wanted to check in on the current status of the funding. Do you anticipate that this grant program will continue?

- a. While there is uncertainty about federal government actions, MDH has not heard that funding for these grants will be cut.

12. There is an emphasis on new collaborations. What is the definition of a new collaboration? For example, if (two) parties have worked together previously, if only once or twice, does that fit your definition?

- a. The RFP welcomes collaboration generally, including new and existing collaborations.

13. We currently have an internal internship program for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. Could the grant be used to cover the wages of the interns if they're hired after the completion of their internship?

- a. Grant funding cannot be used to cover internship wages. If a student who has completed an internship is hired to work on programming for Next Generation then funding can be used to cover their wages. If the student who completed the internship is hired to work on other programming, then these grant funds cannot be used to pay for their wages.

b. Can the grant be used to cover the wages of employees sustaining this internship program, for it to continue operating?

- i. If staff are working on programming for Next Generation then funding can be used to cover their wages.

c. Can the grant be used to pay for certificates to give to interns after their completion of the internship?

- i. Certificates of completion are an allowable expense under supplies.

14. Is this grant being given to several organizations, agencies, etc. and the money will be split amongst those meeting the grants criteria, or only one organization?

- a. We hope to provide grants to multiple organizations but are unable to state the number until we receive and evaluate proposals.

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15. How is the grant funded? We want to ensure there's no conflict with our existing PHIG grant from the CDC.

- a. This grant is funded through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, Assistance Listing Number 93.967.

16. Can the grant be used to subsidize existing CDC PHIG grant funds?

- a. If you're using PHIG funding for the project that you are proposing and want to use Next Generation dollars to increase funding for that work, you must demonstrate that the work being done using Next Generation funding is unique to those funds. You'll need to clearly show there's no overlap or "double dipping" between funding sources. Please consult federal guidelines and your grant administrator for specific requirements.