

RFP for Community PFAS Outreach Grant

2. Organization info

Contact Information

Submitting Organization : Kennedy Heights Community Center
Street Address : 199 KENNEDY HTS
City : MADISON
County : WI
Zip Code : 53704-1645
Email : foodequity@khcommunitycenter.org

Is your organization a Madison-based community group or non-profit with a Federal Tax ID number?

Yes

If yes, please list your Federal Tax ID Number

Federal Tax ID Number : 39-1519846

If no, please list the name of your fiscal sponsor and their Federal Tax ID Number

3. Application questions

Application Details

Name of Project/Program/Initiative : Kennedy Heights PFAS Awareness and Action Initiative
Amount requested : \$5,000
Anticipated start date : 9/6/23
Anticipated completion date : 12/6/23

What does your proposal seek to accomplish? Include a description of your project(s), how funds will be spent, and information about if this is a new initiative/program/activity or if it is supplemental to an ongoing effort. Response limited to 500 words (10 points).

Educational Workshops:

Host informative workshops conducted by environmental experts, health professionals, and community leaders. Provide in-depth information about PFAS, their sources, potential health risks, and the importance of reducing exposure.

Explain the science behind PFAS contamination and its relevance to the Kennedy Heights community.

Community Engagement:

Organize town hall meetings, community forums, and webinars to encourage open discussions about PFAS concerns and solutions.

Share personal stories and experiences related to PFAS exposure to humanize the issue and foster a sense of community support.

Informational Materials:

Develop brochures, fact sheets, and online resources that simplify complex scientific information about PFAS.

Highlight practical steps residents can take to reduce exposure, such as changes in dietary habits and water usage.

Health Screenings and Consultations:

Collaborate with local health organizations to offer health screenings and consultations related to PFAS exposure.

Provide guidance on identifying potential symptoms and seeking medical attention if exposure-related health issues arise.

Interactive Demonstrations:

Organize hands-on workshops demonstrating the proper use of water filters, safe cooking practices, and other strategies to reduce PFAS exposure.

Offer interactive experiences to reinforce learning and empower individuals to implement changes.

Collaboration with Local Schools:

Partner with schools to integrate PFAS education into the curriculum, engaging students and encouraging them to share their knowledge with their families.

Organize student-led initiatives to raise awareness in the community, such as poster contests or informational campaigns.

Online Resources:

Establish a dedicated website or online platform that hosts resources, recordings of workshops, informational videos, and expert interviews.

Foster an online community where residents can ask questions, share concerns, and exchange advice.

Partnerships and Advocacy:

Collaborate with local environmental organizations, government agencies, and advocacy groups working on PFAS-related issues.

Advocate for stricter regulations and policies to reduce PFAS contamination in the community.

What experience does your organization have with serving underserved or marginalized communities? Please include the specific communities that you have worked with. Response limited to 100 words. (10 points)

Our organization is deeply experienced in serving underserved and marginalized communities. Situated within a subsidized housing neighborhood, we have focused on fostering connections with various groups. From "Parent Cafe" gatherings to cooking demos and afterschool programs, we engage with diverse communities, including low-income families, single-parent households, immigrants, and various ethnic backgrounds. This proximity allows us to understand and cater to their unique needs effectively. Our commitment lies in creating an inclusive space where everyone feels valued and empowered.

Please describe how the actions and activities you are planning will have an impact. This may include identifying systemic inequities and how your program plans to address or mitigate the impacts of those systems. Responses limited to 250 words (10 points).

The planned actions and activities have a comprehensive approach to make a significant impact on PFAS contamination in the Kennedy Heights community, while also addressing systemic inequities.

Educational Workshops: Conducting workshops led by experts provides vital information about PFAS sources, health risks, and exposure reduction. This tackles the information gap, empowering the community.

Community Engagement: Town halls, forums, and webinars create platforms for open dialogue, letting the community collectively address concerns and brainstorm solutions. Sharing personal stories builds unity against PFAS-related challenges.

Informational Materials: Creating user-friendly resources empowers individuals with actionable steps. These materials bridge the gap between scientific jargon and practical application, ensuring equal access to knowledge.

Health Screenings: Partnering with health organizations offers comprehensive care. Identifying symptoms and offering guidance mitigates health disparities and grants access to vital resources.

Interactive Demonstrations: Hands-on workshops equip residents with practical skills, countering disparities by bridging the gap between information and implementation.

Collaboration with Schools: Integrating PFAS education into schools targets a systemic issue. Students become advocates, spreading awareness within their families and extending the program's impact.

Online Resources: Establishing a virtual community provides a platform for discussion, overcoming disparities in access to information and support.

Partnerships and Advocacy: Collaborating with external organizations and advocating for policy changes addresses systemic issues at their root.

In essence, our program targets PFAS contamination and systemic disparities by focusing on education, engagement, health, practical skills, and policy changes. This approach aims to make a lasting positive impact on the Kennedy Heights community's well-being and environment.

Please identify the geographic or identity groups, within Madison, on which your project will focus and how you identified this target audience/population? Responses limited to 250 words (10 points).

Our project has identified specific geographic and identity groups in Madison as our target audience. These include members of the Kennedy Heights community, single mothers, African Americans, Hmong individuals, and those with low income. Our selection of these groups was based on a comprehensive assessment of the community's characteristics and needs.

Kennedy Heights was chosen as a geographical focus due to the urgency of addressing PFAS contamination in this area. By concentrating our efforts here, we aim to have a direct impact on the local environment and residents.

The inclusion of single mothers recognizes their potential vulnerabilities arising from limited resources and responsibilities. Our project seeks to provide them with accessible information and resources to safeguard their families' health.

Addressing historical and systemic disparities, our project deliberately targets African Americans and Hmong individuals. We are committed to tackling environmental health inequalities by tailoring our approach to the unique challenges faced by these communities.

Furthermore, our focus on low-income individuals acknowledges the barriers they often encounter in accessing information and resources. Through our initiatives, we strive to provide equitable access to crucial knowledge and support.

Please describe your experience working with your target population in past projects. Response limited to 250 words (10 points).

Our experience working with our target population in past projects has been deeply insightful and impactful. Through initiatives such as "Parent Cafes" for single mothers, cooking demonstrations tailored for Hmong and African American communities, and "Pizza with the Police" events for low-income individuals, we have developed a deep understanding of their unique needs and preferences.

Our "Parent Cafes" have served as empowering spaces for single mothers to share experiences, exchange knowledge, and access resources. These sessions have not only provided practical support but have also fostered a strong sense of community among participants.

Cooking demonstrations customized for Hmong and African American communities have proven to be culturally sensitive and engaging. By incorporating traditional ingredients and culinary practices, these demonstrations have effectively conveyed information while respecting the cultural identities of these groups.

"Pizza with the Police" events have successfully bridged gaps between law enforcement and low-income individuals. By creating a relaxed environment for interaction, these gatherings have promoted open dialogue, built trust, and addressed various community concerns.

These experiences have reinforced our commitment to community-centered outreach. We have witnessed the positive impact of our initiatives through increased community cohesion, improved relationships, and a greater sense of empowerment within each target group. This rich experience serves as the foundation for our current project, ensuring that we continue to prioritize inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, and practical support in our efforts to engage and serve our communities.

4. Thank You!

Thank you for your application. You will be informed of our decision on August 25, 2023.