

**MCH Community Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2022**

Group Member Attendees

Karen Hammersmith, Reno County Health Department
Shaylee Mosher, Kearney County Hospital
Amy Lell, Wilson County Health Department
Julie Laverack, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
Cortney Murrow, Mitchell County Health Department
Cari Schmidt, KUSM-W Cribs
Jennifer Bruns, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
Shanea Bea, Delivering Change
Shruti Chhabra, Finney County Health Department

Other Attendees

Jennifer Marsh, KDHE
Holly Frye, KDHE
Kaylee Goss, KDHE
Zac Leeker, KDHE
Dennis Kriesel, KALHD
Shelby Ostrom, KALHD

Meeting started at 9:00 am (Central)

Reviewing Final Recommendations

Jennifer Marsh shared the recommendations the group shared at the last meeting and via the Jam Board the group created. The group reviewed the new core considerations for the grant along with the following specific pieces:

Eligible applicants: wider group of eligible applicants

Project periods: which have now been extended for 5 years and renewal applications will be required to make budget changes annually. The group had questions about this recommended change and how it will positively impact the application, Holly shared that this new project period will hopefully make the application shorter and better. Cortney asked if applicants could submit application additions if they hire staff and need additional funding. Jennifer also shared that the annual report will be the “application” for each new year within those 5 years.

Applicant pathways: no significant feedback from the group on the pathways, so KDHE will continue with current plans.

Funding: Added content to remind people that project budgets cannot be less than \$25,000 and no more than \$500,000 per annual budget. These numbers do not include the match dollars. Cortney expressed concerns that there is a large jump between the floor and the ceiling funding dollars, and recommended KDHE checking in with grantees about the budget each year. Amy Lell shared that this new funding formula would be helpful. However, Dennis Kriesel shared that he is concerned about the “floor” funding that it is too high for match dollar requirements. Cari recommended putting an asterisk on the \$25,000 “unless otherwise approved”. Shruti recommended allowing for regional applications with the \$25,000 as well.

The group decided to move forward with the “floor” \$25,000 with an asterisk with encouraging regional collaboration first and then if not, they could speak with KDHE grant program staff for a possible exception.

Selection and Scoring: focus on wider project including evidence based and promising practices, more geographical disbursement questions. Do not penalize for certain questions.

Post-Award Considerations: More resources for grantees to utilize including MCH workstation, Community Checkbox and DAISEY. The group also discussed the potential for in-person MCH regional meetings and other resources including technical assistance and grant writing. The group also discussed how the initial application will be in KGMS, and the semi-annual and annual reports will need to be submitted in Community Checkbox. The group discussed the benefits and the challenges of this type of reporting, and Cortney, Karen, and Amy shared this may be an obstacle for smaller and mid-size health departments. Dennis shared that most programs within KDHE use KGMS for everything and adding a new system could be difficult to implement.

Jennifer and Holly suggested adding a 10-minute overview of the Community Checkbox during the next meeting of this group in December so workgroup members could see what it offers over KGMS.

Discuss next steps for the workgroup

Jennifer shared the brief agenda for the next meeting and the next steps for the new grant application and approach for the grant, with a planned “reveal” at the Governor’s Public Health Conference in March 2023. Jennifer mentioned that if there are any large changes to grant plan, a meeting with this group will be necessary in February. Dennis cancelled the meeting in January 2023 and more information will come regarding a new meeting sometime in February 2023.

Jennifer mentioned today is her last day with KDHE, Carrie Akin and Holly Frye will be the new point people moving forward. Jennifer also shared that if this group has any ideas about the new process, you can share them with Carrie and Holly before the next meeting in December.

Meeting ended 10:00 am (Central)