



Special Projects Grant Program Request for Proposals

Summary

- **Purpose** – Special Project grants are made to organizations that are making substantial contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of Louisianians
- **Eligibility** – Special project grants are only made to Louisiana-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with whom the Foundation has a past granting history
- **Amount** – Grant awards are up to \$100,000 per year
- **Applying** – Applications are made through a Letter of Inquiry, submitted online at ourhomelouisiana.org
- **Deadlines** – 4:30 p.m. on March 15 and September 15

Purpose

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation is committed to making ongoing investments in the work of partners who have made a demonstrated impact on the health and wellbeing of Louisianians. That's why we're inviting past Foundation grantees to submit applications for Special Project grants. These grants will help our established partners further their important work on behalf of Louisianians in need.

Projects may focus on any number of issues that affect Louisiana's health and wellbeing, including community health, education and child welfare. We give preference to projects pursuing innovative ideas, as well as projects that reach new and diverse communities. The ideal project will naturally reflect and communicate the values and impact of our Foundation.

How to Apply

If your organization is a Louisiana-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that meets all of our eligibility requirements (listed below), we invite you to submit a **one-page** Letter of Inquiry online at **ourhomelouisiana.org**

The Letter of Inquiry should include:

- A 50-word summary that concisely describes the activities to be carried out in the proposed project
- Any partners who will be involved in your project
- A brief statement of the need that your project addresses
- The indicators/outcomes you will use to gauge success and how you will evaluate them
- How Special Projects funds will be used
- A statement on the next steps after your project is completed, including the Foundation's role

To submit a Letter of Inquiry

- Visit **ourhomelouisiana.org**
- At the top of the page, click **GRANTS AND OTHER INITIATIVES**, then **Grants**
- Click **Apply for a Special Projects Grant** to start the application process

If you need help submitting a Letter of Inquiry, email:

BCBSLAfoundation@bcbsla.com

Selection and Awards

Submitting a Letter of Inquiry is only the first step. If your project is selected for the next phase of consideration, we will ask you to submit a formal application online.

Submitting a formal application is not a guarantee of funding. We cannot guarantee that we will invite every interested organization to submit a formal application. Funding is limited; we cannot fund every project even if it meets our criteria for success.

The maximum amount awarded per grant will be \$100,000.

Our staff will evaluate full proposals based on a number of criteria, with the assistance of a panel of experts. This information will be presented to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation Board of Directors for final selection of projects. Funding for grants is at the sole discretion of our Board of Directors.

The ideal Special Projects grant project is:

- Serving a clearly defined need within the community
- Building on the success of a past grant project with the Blue Cross Foundation
- Properly staffed by an organization with capacity to complete the proposed project
- Designed to make an impact on Louisiana communities over the long term
- Planned to achieve specific and measurable outcomes, with thoughtful and objective evaluation built in
- Able to communicate the values and impact of our Foundation within the community served

If your organization receives a Special Projects grant award, your grant contract will stipulate an annual report on progress/program with data.

Full Eligibility Requirements

You can find our full eligibility requirements online at

<http://ourhomelouisiana.org/grants-and-other-initiatives/grants/>

Must be designated a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization by the IRS

We only give to nonprofit organizations working for charitable, religious, scientific, literary and other organizations under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

Must be registered “in good standing” with the Louisiana Secretary of State

All organizations must be up-to-date on their filings with the Louisiana Secretary of State. You can find more information here: <http://www.sos.la.gov/>

Must be domiciled in Louisiana

We only make gifts to organizations who are based in Louisiana and working for the welfare of Louisianians.

The Foundation does not make grants to the following under any circumstances:

- Programs or events outside of Louisiana
- Organizations that are not tax-exempt
- Political campaigns, candidates, parties or partisan activities
- Sectarian, denominational or religious organizations for support of theological functions
- Athletes or athletic teams
- Beauty pageants
- Direct funding of labor, fraternal or veterans' organizations
- Students raising funds for travel to an out-of-state competition
- Parent-teacher organizations
- Organizations that are in direct competition with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
- Organizations or causes that do not complement our goals for corporate social responsibility
- Providers on contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana