



New Horizons Grant Program **Request for Proposals**

Summary

- **Purpose** – New Horizons grants are made to innovative, new projects to improve the health and wellbeing of Louisianians
- **Amount** – Grants are less than \$10,000 in support of projects that take less than one year to complete
- **Eligibility** – Only Louisiana-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations may apply
- **Applying** – Applications are made through a Letter of Inquiry, submitted online at ourhomelouisiana.org
- **Deadlines** – 4:30 p.m. on March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15; formal applications must be completed within two weeks after receiving an invitation to apply

Purpose

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation invites applicants to submit proposals for its New Horizons grant program.

The Foundation recognizes the need to foster innovation as means of improving health and wellbeing in Louisiana. Through this program, we hope to encourage a research-based and scientific approach to philanthropy through testing ideas and seeing what works. The first step in that process is challenging the status quo with new ideas.

Our goal is to find exciting, emerging ideas and social startups that have the potential to disrupt negative trends in health, education and other issues that directly impact quality of life for Louisianians. A successful New Horizons project may make changes in policies, norms practices and social supports; it may also be a new pilot intervention, plan or approach.

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 activity 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 New Horizons 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 New **Horizons 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 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 \$10,000.

Blue Cross Foundation staff will evaluate full proposals based on a number of criteria. The ideal New Horizons project is:

- A new approach to an established need or addressing an overlooked community need
- Based on a clear logic model
- Backed by theory or research
- Properly staffed by an organization with capacity to complete the project
- Solving a clear and urgent problem with measurable outcomes
- Scalable and, if successful, able to replicated in other places

If your organization receives a New Horizons grant award, your grant contract will stipulate an annual 2-3 page 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/>

To be eligible for a grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, you must meet the following requirements:

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
- Capital projects or campaigns
- 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