



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 \$25,000 in support of projects that take less than one year to complete
- **Eligibility** – Only Louisiana-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations may apply
- **Applying** – Requests are made through a Letter of Intent, submitted online at [SmartSimple | BCBSLA](#); if you need additional guidance on how to use Smart Simple, download the [quick tips guide](#).
- **Deadlines** –March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1. If the 1st falls on a weekend or holiday we will accept Letters of Intent through the deadline, but we will not be in the office to answer questions. In this case, we recommend submitting your Letter of Intent no later than 4:00pm CST on the last work day preceding the deadline.

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



Read this before you apply for a New Horizons grant:

The New Horizons grant program is for new, experimental ideas. Grants are given to promote innovation by funding new pilot projects through their first year.

You should apply for a New Horizons grant if:

- You have a narrow, specific problem you're trying to solve; AND
- You are presenting a new and innovative approach to solving that issue.

All New Horizons applications must:

- Explain how your proposal is a new, innovative approach to solving the problem you have identified above; AND
- Explain how you are substantially revising or altering an existing best practice, such that your proposal represents a new approach.

We do not fund New Horizons proposals for the following:

- Existing programs or ongoing organizational support
- Existing best practices support
- Replicating or expanding a program or approach that already exists

Due to the overwhelming amount of applications, we are not able to evaluate or provide feedback for New Horizons grant Letters of Intent that do not meet the above criteria.

How to Apply (Continued)

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 Letter of Inquiry application online at **BCBSLAFoundation.org**

The Letter of Inquiry application includes:

- A brief 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 innovation 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 **BCBSLAFoundation.org/newhorizons**
- Click **SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT ONLINE**

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

BCBSLAFoundation@bcbsla.com

Selection and Awards

Submitting a Letter of Intent 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 \$25,000.

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 research and a theory of impact
- Properly staffed by an organization with capacity to complete the project
- Solving a clear and important 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 online report on progress/program with data.

Full Eligibility Requirements

You can find our full eligibility requirements online at

<http://bcbslafoundation.org/our-programs/grants/eligibility-requirements/>

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 working in Louisiana

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

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

- 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 or causes that do not complement our goals for corporate social responsibility