



Special Projects Grant Program Request for Proposals

Summary

- **Purpose** – Special Projects grants are intended to help expand or complete projects previously funded by the Foundation – further improving the health and wellbeing of Louisianians. The Foundation also makes proactive impact-style grant awards from this fund at its discretion.
- **Eligibility** – Special Projects 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.
- **Length of time**-Projects lasting up to one year.
- **Results** – Our grant process requires all applicants to outline measurable results as deliverables and commitment to achieving those results as part of the grant contract.
- **Applying** – Requests are made through a Letter of Intent form, submitted online at [SmartSimple | BCBSLA](#); if you need additional guidance on how to use Smart Simple, download the [quick tips guide](#).
- **Deadlines** – Letters of Intent are due March 1, June 1, Sept 1 and 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. Please email BCBSLAFoundation@bcbsla.com to discuss a potential Letter of Intent.

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 Louisianans. 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. 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.

Selection and Awards

Submitting a Letter of Intent form 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 several 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://bcbslafoundation.org/our-programs/grants/eligibility-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
- 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