



## **2009 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** **Strengthening the Capacity of the ILCHF Oral Health Network**

As part of a \$20 million, five-year major oral health initiative, the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) announces a request for proposals for programs designed to reduce barriers preventing children from receiving optimal levels of oral health care. These proposals should not be mere creation or expansion of physical facilities. This RFP is open to eligible organizations that 1) currently or previously received funding through the Foundation's oral health efforts and 2) provides primary care services directly to children (or has a formal collaborative arrangement with a primary care provider). The intent is to augment an existing medical home for children with the addition or expansion of oral health services.

Funded projects will be able to demonstrate through integrated evaluation, successful strategies for reaching and sustaining relationships with community children in need of oral health services. They must be able to demonstrate efficiency in delivery of services, and innovation, specifically in regard to addressing barriers created by geography, special needs, and/or race or ethnicity. Eligible organizations include federally-qualified health centers (FQHC), FQHC look-alikes, school-based health centers, free clinics, public health department clinics, hospital clinics, and other community health centers.

Examples of project components eligible for funding to address barriers beyond the physical expansion of clinic sites include the following:

- Integration of oral health services into a coordinated "medical home" (e.g. case manager);
- Provider recruitment/specialty care ( e.g. travel for out of state recruitment, contract with specialty providers to train staff in specialty procedures);
- Building awareness and oral health education (e.g. oral health educator);
- Increased reimbursements (e.g. consultant to assist in application to become an FQHC, hire medical personnel to meet programmatic requirements);
- Transportation;
- Other barriers as identified by your organization to providing optimal levels of oral health care.

## **Criteria for Selection**

- Organization previously provided funding from ILCHF for oral health services.
- The project must be implemented in the context of a medical home.
- The project must emphasize the comprehensive coordination of health care to underserved children.
- The project will demonstrate innovation in outreach to underserved populations of children.
- The organization must directly provide primary care services either alone or **through a formal arrangement** with another primary care provider.
- Evaluation is integrated into the overall service delivery of the organization. Anticipated outputs and outcomes will align with overall goals of the Foundation's Oral Health Initiative. You will be asked to complete a logic model and indicators/data worksheet as part of your application.
- The leadership is active in policy/advocacy efforts in the community it serves in regard to oral health/healthcare access issues.
- The staff demonstrates cultural competency, and has appropriate credentials/experience to provide the services.
- The project has a plan to leverage additional resources to most efficiently address the issue.
- The project demonstrates the **ability to sustain the project** after ILCHF funding ends (a three year business plan must be submitted indicating revenue and expense projections).
- The costs of the project are realistic and relate closely to the scope of the project.
- The project demonstrates a significant need in the community.
- The project demonstrates ability to increase desired outcomes of improved dental hygiene, children having a dental home and completing dental treatment plans (and the ability to track these outcomes). Organizations will provide a logic model demonstrating proposed impact of project on overall outcomes of the program and periodically report on progress.
- Funded organizations will continue to participate in the ILCHF Oral Health Grantee Network and provide data regarding children's access.

## **ILCHF does not fund:**

- Partisan, political or denominational programs
- Intermediary funding agencies
- Grants to/for specific individuals
- Endowments
- General medical research
- Attempts to influence legislation, as prohibited by section 4945 of the Internal Revenue Code for private foundations

## **Eligibility**

Your organization is eligible for ILCHF funding if it is a 501(c)(3) organization determined to be a public charity under section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a governmental entity described in Code section 170(c)(1) or 511(a)(2)(B). You must currently or previously received funding through the Foundation's oral health efforts. You must be providing licensed, health services to children residing within the state of Illinois. For the purposes of this RFP, organizations must currently be providing primary healthcare services to children and must continue providing oral health services during the term of the requested grant.

## **Grant Size**

For this RFP, ILCHF expects to award a number of grants. Grants will be in the range of \$25,000 to \$75,000. The pool of dollars available for this RFP is approximately \$1.2 million.

## **The Application Process**

Step 1: Determine whether your organization is eligible for funding based on the established criteria, and that your program falls under the focus of the RFP.

Step 2: Follow the directions for the online application at [www.ilchf.org](http://www.ilchf.org).

## **Timing**

- RFP Released: May 4, 2009
- RFP Closing Date: June 5, 2009
- Announcement of Funding Decisions: September 21, 2009
- Award Period Range: October 1, 2009- December 31, 2010
- Implementation of grant-funded projects must begin no later than 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2010

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