

## Vaccination Equity Initiative: Promoting Vaccination Equity to Prevent Cancers in Georgia Rapid Response Funding Opportunity

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis per acceptance cycle until September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Background

**Vaccination Equity Initiative:** In the US, the state of Georgia reported an average cervical cancer incidence rate of 8 per 100,000 women between 2016-2020.<sup>1</sup> Cervical cancer incidence rates at the county level show significant variation, with some counties reporting incidence as high as 13.6 per 100,000.<sup>2</sup> For Black women, cervical cancer mortality rates are almost 1.5x as high as White women, even though overall cancer incidence rates for both groups are about equal.<sup>3</sup> Cervical cancer rates tend to be higher when access to health care and prevention services are constrained due to unmet needs influenced by social drivers of health (SDOH). Furthermore, rates are higher for Black and other communities that have experienced institutional and structural racism, which have led to mistrust in health systems. Georgia currently ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation with its HPV vaccine coverage rate of 61.5%.<sup>4</sup> Research suggests that coverage must reach above 90% across both sexes for HPV prevalence to be eliminated and for cervical cancer impact to be achieved.<sup>5</sup> Community-driven solutions to increasing access to vaccines are central to reducing health disparities in Georgia and must be prioritized if cervical cancer is to be eliminated in the state and nationwide.

To support communities in developing, implementing, and bringing resources and policy attention to these solutions, [CHC: Creating Healthier Communities](#) has partnered with Merck & Co. to implement the Vaccination Equity Initiative (VEI). Through this initiative, CHC supports new and expanded community-driven solutions to addressing the social and other factors that negatively impact access to cancer prevention interventions for disproportionately affected populations in Georgia, specifically districts and cities surrounding and inclusive of Macon, Augusta, and Savannah. Through the Vaccination Equity Initiative, CHC has funded three community-based organizations: Healthy Savannah, The East Georgia Cancer Coalition (EGCC), and Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential (GCAPP).

### Request for Proposals

**Opportunity:** To support communities in activating timely responses to addressing vaccination equity, CHC is releasing rapid response funds focused on community-led efforts to promote outreach and educational activities related to increasing awareness, building trust, and increasing demand for HPV prevention. CHC anticipates awarding mini grants between \$15,000 - \$25,000. The funds must be utilized within one year. ***Please note that awards made under this initiative are not intended to fund HPV prevention services directly (i.e., providing vaccinations); rather, they are intended to help bridge the gap between communities and services so that reductions in cervical cancer rates can be achieved more equitably.***

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<sup>1</sup> CDC: <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/#/AtAGlance/>

<sup>2</sup> Georgia DPH: <https://dph.georgia.gov/chronic-disease-prevention/cancer-prevention-and-control>  
<https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/index.php?stateFIPS=13&areatype=county&cancer=057&race=00&sex=2&age=001&stage=999&year=0&type=incd&sortVariableName=rate&sortOrder=default&output=0#results>

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/20/us-cervical-cancer-disproportionally-kills-black-women>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Immunize\\_HPVG/VA](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Immunize_HPVG/VA)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7957342/#:~:text=Fig.,16%20prevalence%20close%20to%20elimination.>

## Examples of Rapid Response Opportunities:

- Back to school events
- Community health fairs or festivals
- Tabling with educational materials
- Social media campaigns for education and awareness
- Peer educators
- Referral and navigation support

**Initiative Geographic Focus:** CHC is seeking to fund partnerships with trusted community-focused organizations who are working in, or have the ability to, partner with other organizations to extend their reach into Georgia counties, surrounding the Augusta, Macon and Savannah areas. These are areas that have reported a higher-than-state average and/or increasing cervical cancer incidence<sup>67</sup>limited access to and availability of HPV prevention-focused resources.

**Proposal Process:** As an intermediary organization, CHC supports partners in implementing programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities and that will have the greatest impact. Thus, the proposal process outlined below is intentionally designed to be iterative and adaptive to applicants' needs and operating realities. CHC embraces a participatory grantmaking approach when making funding decisions, and when awards are made, using transparent and inclusive processes to support development of project designs, project monitoring and evaluation plans.

**Submission Instructions:** Interested applicants should submit their completed application, via an online [link](#). Application cycles close on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of each month up to September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The application will be closed for two weeks for a review period. Those not accepted in a given review cycle can re-apply during the next application cycle. The last opportunity to submit for funding is September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Submission Deadlines

There are three (3) application submission cycles. Deadlines for each application cycle is below:

<b>JULY 2024</b>	<b>AUGUST 2024</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2024</b>
Application release June 21, 2024	Application release August 1, 2024	Application release September 2, 2024
Applications due July 15, 2024	Applications due August 15, 2024	Applications due September 16, 2024
Review period: July 15- 29, 2024	Review period: August 15-29, 2024	Review period: September 17-30, 2024
Award Notifications: August 1-8, 2024	Award Notifications: September 2-6, 2024	Award Notifications: October 1-4, 2024

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<sup>6</sup> Data are for reporting counties only based on state-level reporting.

Questions regarding application submission or technical difficulties can also be directed to [vaccinationequity@chcimpact.org](mailto:vaccinationequity@chcimpact.org).

**Initiative Timeline & Key Dates:** CHC is committed to a participatory, transparent, and community-first proposal process; the timeline and key dates presented below provide opportunities and time to raise questions, share insights, collaborate on potential approaches, and to shape and refine potential activities that will have the greatest impact with the time and resources provided by this initiative.

<b>Initiative Activity</b>	<b>Key Date(s)</b>
Call for Proposals opens	June 21, August 1, September 1
Final proposals due	July 15, August 15, September 16
Award decisions made & applicants notified	2 weeks after submission
Project workplan & collaborative impact framework design workshop for awardees	2-3 weeks after final agreement signed
Implementation	Within 12 months of funding award

**Review Criteria & Process:** Applications will be reviewed by CHC program staff and a small panel of external advisors who represent and can bring perspectives from the impacted communities. All questions regarding the Vaccination Equity Initiative can be directed to [vaccinationequity@chcimpact.org](mailto:vaccinationequity@chcimpact.org).

## APPLICATION

### Organizational Overview

Please respond to the following using no more than 1.5 pages.

- Organizational Information
  - Organization Name
  - Year Established
  - Address
  - Website
- Are you a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit entity according to the IRS? (Yes/No)
  - If yes, attach 501c3 verification
  - If not, please explain your registration status. Note; if an organization is not a 501c3, CHC request confirmation of fiscal sponsorship
- Please provide your annual operating budget.
- Please provide a brief description of your organization's mission and values.
- Please provide a brief description of the types of communities your organization serves, and the types of services and support offered.
- If possible, please indicate how many people your organization works with or reaches each year, choosing from the list below.
  - Selection list:
    - 500-999
    - 1,000-4,999
    - 5,000-9,999
    - 10,000-19,999
    - 20,000-49,999
    - 50,000+
- If possible, please indicate your programmatic service numbers for the past year. For example, the number of people receiving clinical services or social services as a result of your efforts.
- Applicant Contact Information
  - Name
  - Pronouns
  - Title/Role
  - Email and Phone

### Narrative Questions

Please provide written responses to the following questions, using no more than 3 pages for the entire narrative section

#### Alignment with the Initiative

- Please briefly describe how the work your organization is doing or would like to do aligns with the overall objectives and outcomes identified under this initiative.

Proposed Activity and Intent: *Please provide details on what your organization proposes to do with this funding to improve community acceptance of HPV prevention.*

- Please describe the communities, populations, and geographical areas your organization works and/or partners with and serves. Please provide sufficient detail to enable clear understanding about the populations you work with in terms of where they live and the challenges they face.
- Please describe the activities your organization is proposing with support from this initiative. How will the mini grant funds specifically be used for one-time outreach, awareness, and promotion event?
- What are the expected results from the project? Please indicate how you plan to measure your success in terms of expanding HPV prevention efforts? Please be sure to include outcome and process measures.
- Please provide a detailed description of the activity timeline.

#### Funding Amount Requested

- Please indicate the level of funding you are requesting. Please consider the funding range noted in the RFP (\$15-25k per grant).
- Please submit a brief budget narrative that indicates how you plan to implement your approach. Suggested categories include staffing, equipment and supplies, meeting space rental, travel/transportation. Applicants may submit a separate document or spreadsheet to present a detailed budget, if preferred. (Applicants can also attach a file or link to budget)