CBO INSIGHTS RFP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

New Jersey Birth Equity Funders Alliance is seeking a partner to study the landscape of Community-Based Organizations Working Towards Birth Equity in New Jersey

Q1. What is the New Jersey Birth Equity Funders Alliance?

A1. Five funders in New Jersey – the Burke Foundation, the Community Health Acceleration Partnership, The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with the Nicholson Foundation (as a Development Partner) — have come together to set up the New Jersey Birth Equity Funders Alliance to tackle birth inequities in support of Nurture New Jersey, a state-wide maternal and infant health strategic plan and ensure that community members and community-based organizations are at the heart of this work.

Q2. Why is the Alliance undertaking a CBO Insights/Landscaping activity?

A2. To fulfil its mission to reduce maternal mortality in New Jersey and eliminate racial disparities in birth outcomes, the Alliance primarily focuses on empowering and resourcing Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that are closest to the problems on the ground. Information about CBOs and their needs, especially those working in Birth Equity within New Jersey, is scattered and unclear. Hence, this CBO landscape research will be critical in informing the Alliance and other stakeholders as they plan their grants and community-based programs. This exercise is also structured to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to listen and understand the realities in the field.

Q3. How will this work be utilized by the Alliance and other actors to tackle birth inequity in New Jersey?

A3. The CBO landscape research will be a critical input into the Alliance's forthcoming Technical Assistance and General Operating Grants for Birth Equity focused CBOs in New Jersey. Further, findings will also be shared with other funders, state government, and field actors, at large.

Q4. What does the Alliance look for in an ideal research partner for this work?

A4. The Alliance, alongside the Community Advisory Committee, is keen to work with a local New Jersey-based researcher(s)/organization that has a) a participatory and community-centered research approach and b) values that align with the Alliance's mission to seek birth equity and racial justice. Prior experience with maternal and infant health, community health, and CBOs are not necessary to qualify but favorably considered.

Q5. What is the deadline to send in applications?

A5. All applications emailed to NJ@BirthEquityAlliance.com by midnight, **April 15, 2022** will be considered.

Q6. What is the evaluation process?

A6. The transparent, two-step evaluation process ensures that each application is reviewed by more than one evaluator and an average of evaluator's scores shortlists candidates for the interview round. Those qualifying for the interview round will interact with a small group of Alliance and Community Advisory Committee members to discuss their research plan and approach in further detail.

Q7. When will applicants likely know about the results of the RFP?

A7. A decision will likely be announced by the second week of May 2022.

Q8. When is the research project estimated to begin?

A8. Post finalization and contracting, the research begins immediately at the end of May/early June.

Q9. When is the final report deliverable expected?

A9. Given the rapid nature of the landscaping exercise, a deliverable is expected after 12 weeks from the start date i.e. around mid-August.

Q10. What is the budget for this project?

A10. The Alliance is giving applicants the flexibility to share their quote. However, the grant can be no more than $75,000, including a 12% overhead.

Q11. How do I reach the Alliance if I have more questions/concerns?

A11. Please write to us NJ@BirthEquityAlliance.com or send us a message on LinkedIn and it will be our earnest effort to respond as soon as possible.