



Improving the state of
New York's health.

April 2018

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Request for Proposals

Patients as Partners

Applicants must first complete an online letter of inquiry form. The online letter of inquiry form and instructions are available in the Apply for Funding section of the NYSHHealth website. The deadline for the online letter of inquiry form is **Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 1 p.m.** Following a review of submitted online inquiry forms, selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals, with a deadline of **Monday, July 23, 2018, at 1 p.m.**

Deadlines

Online Inquiry Form:
May 16, 2018, at 1 p.m.

Full Proposal (*invited applicants only*): July 23, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

I. About the Foundation

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHHealth) is a private foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable. To achieve meaningful impact, the Foundation makes grants, informs health care policy and practice, and spreads effective programs that work to improve New York's health system. The Foundation's grantmaking is focused on two priority areas: Building Healthy Communities and Empowering Health Care Consumers. It also engages in responsive grantmaking through its Special Projects Fund and maintains a special interest in Veterans' Health.

II. Background

At NYSHHealth, we want New Yorkers to have a meaningful role as partners both in their own health care and at the policy level. At the clinical level, patients should be empowered to get their needs met and have a voice in health care decisions. At the policy level, patients and consumers should have a seat at the table to help drive and inform decisions that affect health care policy, quality, access, and costs in New York State.

In the policy realm, it can be difficult for health care consumers to share their experiences, concerns, and proposed solutions with State decision-makers. New York residents are the ones who ultimately pay for the cost of our health care system and bear the burden of its inadequacies. However, it is often the case that the interests of providers, payers, and other organized stakeholders take precedence over the patient.

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III. NYSHealth Perspective

The Foundation's priority area on Empowering Health Care Consumers is focused on two core strategies: (1) promoting information transparency in price, quality, and patient experience and (2) engaging patients as partners in health care and health policy decision-making. Some current projects include:

- Giving patients access to their health care [visit notes](#);
- Understanding the landscape and role of [Patient and Family Advisory Councils](#) at hospitals across New York State;
- Integrating the [consumer voice](#) into the certificate of need [planning process](#);
- Improving [discharge planning](#) so that patients and caregivers have the information they need to make decisions about post-acute care options;
- Promoting greater awareness [among providers](#) of how HIPAA supports [patients' right](#) to access their own health information; and
- Spreading [open visitation](#) and family presence policies across hospitals in New York State.

IV. The Funding Opportunity

NYSHealth will make grants of up to \$250,000 to advance patients as partners. The RFP will invite proposals for projects that seek system improvements, practice innovations, or policy reforms designed to benefit patients and consumers. As examples, the RFP might fund projects that:

- Create channels for consumer input and advocacy in State health care policies and decisions;
- Increase patient and consumer representation on decision-making bodies or advisory groups;
- Incorporate patient input and consumer voices into the design of patient engagement strategies;
- Put consumers and patient voices at the forefront of health care advocacy;
- Use human-centered design and creative resources to respond to patient experiences, anticipate patient needs, and minimize patient burdens;

- Ease access to patients' health information and facilitate the use of that information in decision-making and self-advocacy;
- Seek to shift the provider culture to value patients' input and view patients as partners;
- Identify strategies for infusing the needs and preferences of patients and their caregivers into the care transition process;
- Develop shared decision-making opportunities for varied situations, based on when and where patients want to have a say;
- Create channels for patients to voice experiences and build more accountability into the system;
- Test models that foster more trusting relationships between providers and patients;
- Engage consumers in improving health care quality and public reporting and informing the development of patient-centric quality outcomes; and
- Implement provider skill-building training on how to value patients' input and interact with patients as partners during the clinical encounter.

View [related projects](#) previously funded by NYSHealth.

V. Eligibility and Funding

To build the capacity of New York State-based organizations to advance the field, all applicants are required to be New York State-based. Applicants may partner or subcontract with a non-New York-based organization if it offers resources and expertise beneficial to the project.

Applicants may apply for a grant of up to \$250,000. Projects will be assessed for the appropriateness of budget to the proposed scope of work and timeline. Funds requested must be commensurate with the work proposed. Budget will be an important factor in selecting the most competitive proposals.

Project durations may vary from one to three years. Some competitive projects can be completed more quickly and result in impact sooner than others. Larger, more ambitious projects may take longer to complete.

VI. Selection Criteria

Preference will be given to projects that are statewide or regional in scope or have implications for system-wide policies or practices; provide a true benefit to consumers and patients; or can have impact or influence on the larger field.

The Foundation encourages New York State-specific projects that are creative; have broad impact or geographic breadth; enlist key partners; target innovation at the system or policy level; are patient- or consumer-led; or have substantial consumer or patient involvement as a prominent feature of the project. The Foundation expects grantees to be geographically diverse and to represent a range of expertise and capacities.

The most competitive proposals will broadly address an issue and/or affect a large number of organizations, consumers, and patients beyond the applicant's own organization and the people it serves.

All letters of inquiry are reviewed internally by Foundation staff, who will then invite selected applicants to submit a full proposal for review. Full proposals will be assessed by both Foundation staff and a panel of external reviewers who possess a diverse set of expertise.

Selection criteria will include:

- The degree to which the project will have a regional or statewide impact;
- The applicant represents a new grantee for the Foundation;
- The project targets innovation at the system or policy level; and
- Substantive consumer or patient involvement is a prominent feature of the project.

VII. Application Process

Step 1: All applicants are required to complete an online inquiry form. The deadline for the online inquiry form is May 16, 2018, at 1 p.m.



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Step 2: After reviewing all inquiry forms, NYHealth staff members will advise applicants on whether to submit a full proposal. Selected applicants will be e-mailed specific submission instructions. The deadline for the full proposal is July 23, 2018, at 1 p.m.

Programmatic questions regarding project ideas should be addressed to: Program Officer Amy Shefrin at Shefrin@nyshealth.org or 212-584-7673, or Program Assistant Victoria Casani at Casani@nyshealth.org or 212-292-7296.

Technical questions regarding the online application system should be e-mailed to grantsmanagement@nyshealth.org.

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