



## Request for Applications

RFA # [A-388](#)

### Innovative Approaches: Improving Systems of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

**FUNDING AGENCY:** North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
Women's and Children's Health Section  
Children and Youth Branch

**ISSUE DATE:** August 13, 2021

**DEADLINE DATE:** November 1, 2021

**INQUIRY INFORMATION:**

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFA to:  
Kristin Dodge, Innovative Approaches Initiative Director  
NC Division of Public Health  
Raleigh, NC  
Phone: (919) 707-5662  
Email: [Kristin.dodge@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kristin.dodge@dhhs.nc.gov)

**Applications will be received until 5:00 pm on November 1, 2021.**

Email all application documents directly to the funding agency email address as indicated below:

**Electronic Submission Information:**

Direct electronic submission of this RFA to:  
[Kristin.dodge@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kristin.dodge@dhhs.nc.gov)

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Indicate agency/organization name and RFA number in the subject line of the electronic submission.**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Children and Youth Branch in the Women's and Children's Health Section of the Division of Public Health (DPH) develops, implements, promotes, and monitors programs and services that are consistent with Federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Bureau's goals to protect and enhance the health and well-being of children and their families. There is a strong emphasis on Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN).

The purpose of the Innovative Approaches (IA) initiative is to thoroughly examine and foster improvement for community-wide systems of care that will effectively meet the needs of families of children and youth with special health care needs, resulting in increased family satisfaction with services received and improved outcomes for children and youth with special health care needs. The Children and Youth Branch is seeking approximately five local health departments that are interested in assembling families of CYSHCN along with providers and community agencies to conduct an in-depth assessment of the local system of care for CYSHCN and develop a community action plan.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any Local Health Department (LHD) or Health District (HD) is eligible to apply for funding to serve one to three counties.

DPH is looking for applications with a clearly written operational plan to organize and maintain a steering committee to collect data, identify systems issues, and develop a clear and actionable plan to address the identified system changes. Your Innovative Approaches action plan will be implemented after a 6–9-month planning process. Action plans will have clearly written objectives and activities to change policies, procedures or practices that improve the system of care for CYSHCN. The system changes activities outlined in the action plan must be the result of needs identified by families of CYSHCN in the community and result in a long-standing change in the system of care.

DPH is seeking applicants with a history of commitment to serving children and youth with special health care needs and a sufficient track record to indicate a good chance of success. The proposed Innovative Approaches initiative shall include all partners necessary to assure access to a full range of services including prevention, primary, specialty physician services, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, local public health programs and services to include non-medical support services, pharmacy, behavioral health, foster care, home health and other care providers as needed. The steering committee must be able to identify system gaps and plan for a system that will provide coordinated family-centered services that include preventive, acute, basic procedures, support services, referral, follow-up, and ongoing care for chronic conditions.

## **FUNDING**

Funding Sources: Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (100% Federal).

Funding Available \$1,986,000 for June 1, 2022- May 31, 2025

- FY 22-23: \$662,000
- FY 23-24: \$662,000
- FY 24-25: \$662,000

Up to five LHDs will be awarded \$132,400 per FY ( $5 \times \$132,400 = \$662,000$ ) of the three-year grant cycle ( $\$662,000 \times 3 = \$1,986,000$ )

## II. BACKGROUND

The Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) defines Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) as “children who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.” CYSHCN have conditions that are expected to last more than 12 months, are often diagnosed with more than one condition, and frequently experience several functional difficulties, including respiratory problems, learning or behavior problems, difficulty with gross or fine motor skills, or chronic pain. Parents with CYSHCN experience a complex system of uncoordinated services. The aim of the Innovative Approaches (IA) initiative is to thoroughly examine and foster improvement for community-wide systems of care that will effectively meet the needs of families of children and youth with special health care needs, resulting in increased family satisfaction with services received and improved outcomes for children and youth with special health care needs. The goals of IA are based on six specific national Maternal and Child Health Bureau performance measures and can be found in Appendix I.

Innovative Approaches uses systems change approach rather than a program-based approach to address community improvements for families of CYSHCN. Systems change is the core of Innovative Approaches.

"Systems change" is a shift in the way that a community makes decisions about policies, programs, and the allocation of its resources, usually through regulations, procedures, and protocols set down in formal written documents, and ultimately, in the way it delivers services to its citizens. To undertake systems change, a community must build collaborative bridges among multiple agencies, community members, and other stakeholders.

We usually think of policy as laws, regulations, procedures, and protocols set down in formal written documents. But policy may also be unwritten and informal — embedded in the culture of agencies and organizations as the way people commonly assume things "ought to" be done, or simply the way that people are accustomed to doing things.

To bring about community change, it's essential to conduct a comprehensive analysis to identify all the policies, both formal and informal, that impact how services are provided, and then to revise those that pose barriers to the system of care for CYSHCN, or to create new more supportive policies. In some cases, policies may contradict one another, creating dynamics that make it harder for decision-makers to move forward.

To overcome this fragmentation, decision-makers need to look at the total service-delivery system, identifying gaps, duplication, and overlaps in services. Working from this information, they can set up mechanisms to facilitate inter-agency communication and coordination — such as wrap-around services, joint decision making, unified assessment and intake processes, and shared information systems — all to help ensure that families of CYSHCN encounter a seamless path through the services they need.

(Adapted from the Comprehensive Community Initiative)

### III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

#### **Input**

1. Funding will begin June 1, 2022, and end May 31, 2025. Providing a three-year project period.
2. Funding, depending on the number of projects selected, up to five (5) grant awards of no more than \$132,400 each per year will be made through an application review process. Funding is contingent on funding availability.
3. Local health departments must create and maintain a steering committee representative of the community and identify dedicated staff to the project, as well as collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data from families and providers.

#### **Output**

1. Recruiting, convening, and coordinating an Innovative Approaches (IA) steering committee of at least 11 individuals serving children and youth with special health care needs and families. Members should include:
  - a. Two to four family members of CYSHCN
  - b. Local Health Department Director
  - c. Local Department of Social Services Director
  - d. Social service agency representatives (child protective services and/or foster care services)
  - e. County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) staff
  - f. Mental health agency representative
  - g. Two school system representatives (school's Exceptional Children program staff and School Nurse)
  - h. Local health care provider
  - i. Representatives from other community agencies involved in the Local Health Department's targeted systems changes.

Steering Committee leadership should consist of three co-chairs (one parent, the health director, and the social services director) to lead the committee in the creation and implementation of the systems change IA action plan.

2. Hiring one full-time, qualified staff person or one full-time equivalent (1 FTE), to serve as IA Coordinator, to lead the development of the IA needs assessment, the IA action plan, and the IA sustainability plan. Preference is that the IA Coordinator will reside in

the county (ies) to be served by the funded LHD and/or Health District. The DPH Program Contact will be involved in the hiring process for all project staff, including developing job descriptions, interviewing, and assisting in final staff selection.

3. Hiring or subcontracting a part-time, qualified staff person or half-time equivalent (0.5 FTE) to serve as the Parent Outreach Coordinator, to perform outreach activities to engage parents of CYSHCN, and to recruit their active involvement in the Innovative Approaches Initiative through the development of a Parent Advisory Council.
4. Participating in monthly IA Coordinator calls facilitated by DPH Program Contact in which local IA Coordinators provide site updates and share information with their peer counterparts across the state.
5. Coordinating formal mechanisms to receive input from parents of CYSHCN regularly. Family surveys and/or focus groups should occur at a minimum of two times per year. Family survey tools assess the prevalence and impact of special health care needs and evaluate change over time. Focus groups provide a structured format to further explore CYSHCN topic specific issues with parents and professionals working with CYSHCN.
6. Developing a current and comprehensive needs assessment of the needs and gaps in services of parents and families of CYSHCN for the county(ies) at the initiation of the Agreement Addendum and updated annually as per the requirements outlined in the IA Implementation Manual.
7. Developing and maintaining an IA action plan to include system change objectives, action steps, and results using the specified Children and Youth Branch IA action plan template and updating the plan quarterly.
8. Developing and maintaining an IA sustainability plan by the end of year two of the three-year grant cycle to include/address environmental support, funding stability, partnerships, organizational capacity, program evaluation, program adaptation, communications, and strategic planning using the specified Children and Youth Branch IA sustainability plan template and updating the plan annually.
9. Managing all financial aspects of the IA, including meeting expenses, expert faculty, participant reimbursements, and subcontracts.
10. Assuring IA steering committee member attendance at all planning and professional development training sessions coordinated by the Division of Public Health as communicated via monthly mandatory IA Coordinator calls.
11. Attending and purchasing all required Division of Public Health training sessions, technical assistance, and evaluation efforts.
12. Providing mentoring assistance to other counties' local health departments as requested by the Division of Public Health.

## Outcome

1. Process measures will include the number of families, providers, and agencies involved in Innovative Approaches, number of qualitative data collection events, the number of internal IA meetings held, the number of external meetings attended, the number of professional development programs held, and participants trained, the number of community interventions.
2. Outcome measures will include the number of policies, procedure, or practice changes, as evidenced by written documents.
3. The goals of IA are based on the national Maternal and Child Health Bureau outcome measures focused on the percentage of children with special health care needs receiving care in a well-functioning system. To ensure access to needed and continuous systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs, IA goals focus on six components of a well-functioning system (noted below). Impact measures will include changes in the following Maternal and Child Health Bureau National Outcome Measures (NOM) and National Performance Measures (NPM):

NOM 17.1	% of CSHCN	21.7% in NC	(18.9% nationwide) 2018-19 data
NOM 17.2	% of CSHCN Who Received Care in a Well-Functioning System	18.1% in NC	(14.1% nationwide) 2018-19 data
NPM 11	% of CSHCN Having a Medical Home	48.4% in NC	(42.3% nationwide) 2018-19 data
NPM 12	% of adolescents with SHCN who received services necessary to make the transition to adult health care	16.5% in NC	(22.9% nationwide) 2018-19 data

As reported by families of CYSHCN in your community, changes in process and outcome measures will result in increases in the following components of a well-functioning system:

1. Families of children and youth with special health care needs will partner in decision making at all levels and will be satisfied with the services they receive. NC 85% in 2019 vs. NC 81.9% in 2017
2. All children and youth with special health care needs will receive coordinated ongoing comprehensive care within a medical home. NC 48.4% vs. 46.9% in 2017
3. Families of children with special healthcare needs have adequate health insurance and financing to pay for needed services. NC 64.1% in 2019 vs. NC 60.7% in 2017
4. All children will be screened early and continuously for special health care needs. NC 75.2% in 2019 vs. NC 82% in 2017
5. Services for children and youth with special health care needs and their families will be organized in ways that families can use them easily. NC 88.2% in 2019 vs. NC 88.6% in 2017



6. All children and youth with special health care needs will receive the services necessary to make appropriate transitions. NC 16.5% in 2019 vs. NC 22.4% in 2017

\*The National Survey of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CYSHCN) and the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) have been redesigned and become a single survey - the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH). NOM and NPM data is from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative.

Citation: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (2020). "Child and Family Health Measures Content Map, 2018-2019 National Survey of Children's Health(2 years combined)". Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Retrieved [mm/dd/yy] from [<https://www.childhealthdata.org/>].

### *Service Quality*

1. Work must be **family driven** as evidenced by CYSHCN family involvement in the IA steering committee and subcommittees, as well as family participation in focus group(s) and survey data.
2. Work must be provided in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner.

#### **IV. GENERAL INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS**

**1. Award or Rejection**

All qualified applications will be evaluated, and award made to that Local Health Department (LHD) whose combination of budget and service capabilities are deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency. The funding LHDs reserves the unqualified right to reject any or all offers if determined to be in its best interest. Successful applicants will be notified by December 1, 2021.

**2. Cost of Application Preparation**

Any cost incurred by a LHD in preparing or submitting an application is the agency's or organization's sole responsibility; the funding agency will not reimburse any agency or organization for any pre-award costs incurred.

**3. Elaborate Applications**

Elaborate applications in the form of brochures or other presentations beyond that necessary to present a complete and effective application are not desired.

**4. Oral Explanations**

The funding agency will not be bound by oral explanations or instructions given at any time during the competitive process or after awarding the grant.

**5. Reference to Other Data**

Only information that is received in response to this RFA will be evaluated; reference to information previously submitted will not suffice.

**6. Titles**

Titles and headings in this RFA and any subsequent RFA are for convenience only and shall have no binding force or effect.

**7. Form of Application**

Each application must be submitted on the form provided by the funding agency and will be incorporated into the funding agency's Agreement Addendum.

**8. Exceptions**

All applications are subject to the terms and conditions outlined herein. All responses will be controlled by such terms and conditions. The attachment of other terms and conditions by any LHD may be grounds for rejection of that LHD's application. Funded LHD's specifically agree to the conditions set forth in the Agreement Addendum.

**9. Advertising**

In submitting its application, agencies and organizations agree not to use the results therefrom or as part of any news release or commercial advertising without prior written approval of the funding agency.

**10. Right to Submitted Material**

All responses, inquiries, or correspondence relating to or in reference to the RFA, and all other reports, charts, displays, schedules, exhibits, and other documentation submitted by the LHD will become the property of the funding agency when received.

**11. Competitive Offer**

Pursuant to the provision of G.S. 143-54, and under penalty of perjury, the signer of any application submitted in response to this RFA thereby certifies that this application has not been arrived at collusively or otherwise in violation of either Federal or North Carolina antitrust laws.

**12. Local Health Department's Representative**

Each LHD shall submit with its application the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) with authority to bind the LHD and answer questions or provide clarification concerning the application.

**13. Subcontracting**

Local Health Departments may propose to subcontract portions of work provided that their applications clearly indicate the scope of the work to be subcontracted, and to whom. All information required about the prime grantee is also required for each proposed subcontractor.

**14. Proprietary Information**

Trade secrets or similar proprietary data which the Local Health Department does not wish disclosed to other than personnel involved in the evaluation will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by NCAC TO1: 05B.1501 and G.S. 132-1.3 if identified as follows: Each page shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL." Any section of the application that is to remain confidential shall also be so marked in boldface on the title page of that section.

**15. Participation Encouraged**

Pursuant to Article 3 and 3C, Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Executive Order No. 77, the funding agency invites and encourages participation in this RFA by businesses owned by minorities, women and the disabled, including utilization as subcontractor(s) to perform functions under this Request for Applications.

**16. Agreement Addendum**

The Division will issue an Agreement Addendum to the recipient of the RFA funding. Expenditures can begin immediately upon receipt of a completely signed Agreement Addendum.

## V. APPLICATION PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND APPLICATION REVIEW

The following is a general description of the process by which applicants will be selected for funding for this project.

### 1. **Announcement of the Request for Applications (RFA)**

The announcement of the RFA and instructions for receiving the RFA will be posted at the following DHHS website on August 13, 2021:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/grant-opportunities/public-health-grant-opportunities> and may be sent to prospective agencies and organizations via direct mail, email, “phleaders” listserv email and/or the Program’s website.

### 2. **Distribution of the RFA**

RFAs will be posted on the Program’s website:

<https://publichealth.nc.gov/wch/index.htm> and prospective LHDs via the “phleaders” listserv email and sent via email to interested agencies and organizations beginning August 13, 2021.

### 3. **Question & Answer Period**

Written email questions concerning the specifications in this Request for Applications will be received by email to [Kristin.Dodge@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kristin.Dodge@dhhs.nc.gov) until August 20, 2021. As an addendum to this RFA, a summary of all questions and answers will be emailed, by August 27, 2021, to all LHDs sent a copy of this Request for Applications or will be placed on the Children & Youth Branch website at:

<https://publichealth.nc.gov/wch/index.htm>.

### 4. **Applications**

Applicants shall submit one Microsoft Word document or PDF of the application via electronic submission to [Kristin.Dodge@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kristin.Dodge@dhhs.nc.gov). This electronic submission shall include the required attachments, including line item budget and narrative as an Excel document. Electronic submission will be accepted in lieu of an original. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

### 5. **Format**

The application should be formatted as a Microsoft Word document or PDF single-side on 8.5” x 11” paper with margins of 1”. Line spacing should be single-spaced. The font should be easy to read and no smaller than an 11-point font.

### 6. **Space Allowance**

Page limits are clearly marked in each section of the application. Refer to *VIII.3 Applicant’s Response* for specifics.

### 7. **Application Deadline**

All applications must be received by the date and time on the cover sheet of this RFA. Faxed applications ***will not*** be accepted in lieu of the original and required hard copy. Original signatures are required.

## **8. Review of Applications**

Applications are reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee of public and private health and human services providers who are familiar with the subject matter. Staff from applicant agencies may not participate as reviewers.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee according to completeness, content, experience with similar projects, ability of the LHD's staff, cost, etc. The award of a grant to one agency and organization does not mean that the other applications lacked merit, but that, all facts considered, the selected application was deemed to provide the best service to the State. LHDs are cautioned that this is a request for applications, and the funding agency reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all applications when such rejections are deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency.

## **9. Request for Additional Information**

At their option, the application reviewers may request additional information from any or all applicants for the purpose of clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the application. However, LHDs are cautioned that the reviewers are not required to request clarification. Therefore, all applications should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the LHD.

## **10. Audit**

G.S. 159-34 states that each unit of local government and public authority must have its accounts audited as soon as possible after the close of each fiscal year.

## **11. Application Process Summary Dates**

08/13/2021: Request for Applications released to eligible applicants.

08/20/2021: End of Q&A period. All questions due in writing by 5pm.

08/27/2021: Answers to Questions released to all applicants, as an addendum to the RFA.

11/01/2021: Applications due by 5pm.

12/01/2021: Successful applicants will be notified.

06/01/2022: Agreement Addendum begins.

## **VI. PROJECT BUDGET**

### **Budget and Justification**

Applicants must submit a budget, which requires a line-item budget for each year of funding and a narrative justification.

### **Narrative Justification for Expenses**

A narrative justification must be included for every expense listed in the budget. Each justification should show how the amount on the line-item budget was calculated, and it should be clear how the expense relates to the project.

### **Travel Reimbursement Rates**

Mileage reimbursement rates must be based on rates determined by the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM). Because mileage rates fluctuate with the price of fuel, the OSBM will release the “Change in IRS Mileage Rate” memorandum to be found on OSBM’s website when there is a change in this rate. The current state mileage reimbursement rate is 56 cents per mile.

For other travel related expenses, please refer to the current rates for travel and lodging reimbursement, presented in the chart below. However, please be advised that reimbursement rates periodically change. The Division of Public Health will only reimburse for rates authorized in OSBM’s North Carolina Budget Manual or adopted by means of an OSBM Budget Memo. These documents are located here: <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/budget/budget-manual#ui-id-9>

### **Current Rates for Travel and Lodging**

<b>Meals</b>	<b>In State</b>	<b>Out of State</b>
Breakfast	\$13.00	\$13.00
Lunch	\$14.00	\$14.00
Dinner	\$23.00	\$23.00
<i>Total Meals Per Diem Per Day</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<b>Lodging (Maximum rate per person, excludes taxes and fees)</b>	\$96.00	\$96.00
<b>Total Travel Allowance Per Day</b>	<b>\$146.00</b>	<b>\$146.00</b>
Mileage	\$0.56 per mile	

**VII. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**SCORING OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications shall be scored based on the responses to the five application content areas. The highest total score is 100 points. Each content area shall be scored based on the scale below:

- POOR**            Applicant only marginally addressed the application area.
- AVERAGE**     Applicant adequately addressed the application area.
- GOOD**           Applicant did a thorough job of addressing the application area.
- EXCELLENT**    Applicant provided a superior response to the application area.

See pages 24-25 for additional information on scoring for each of these content areas.

<b>Scoring</b>		<b>Points</b>
Section A	Needs Assessment	Excellent 15 points Good 11-14 points Average 5-10 points Poor 1-4 points
Section B	Existing Systems Profile	Excellent 15 points Good 11-14 points Average 5-10 points Poor 1-4 points
Section C	Capacity and Readiness	Excellent 16-20 points Good 11-15 points Average 6-10 points Poor 1-5 points
Section D	Planning and Implementation	Excellent 31-40 points Good 21-30 points Average 11-20 points Poor 1-10 points
Section E	Sustainability	Excellent 9-10 points Good 6-8 points Average 4-5 points Poor 1-3 points

## **Application Checklist**

The following items must be included in the Microsoft Word document or PDF application. Please assemble the application in the following order:

1. \_\_\_ **Cover Letter**

The cover letter must include a statement of assurance that the local health department can accept funds into its budget during the initial funding period of June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023.

*Note: Without this assurance, the application will be invalid.*

2. \_\_\_ **Application Face Sheet**

3. \_\_\_ **Applicant's Response/Form**

4. \_\_\_ **Project Budget**

\_\_\_ Include a budget in the format provided.

5. \_\_\_ **Letters of Commitment or Statements of Support**

6. \_\_\_ **IRS Letter documenting agency tax identification number**



## 1. Cover Letter

The application must include a cover letter, on agency letterhead, signed and dated by an individual authorized to legally bind the Applicant.

Include in the cover letter:

- the legal name of the Applicant agency
- the RFA number
- the Applicant agency's federal tax identification number
- the Applicant agency's DUNS number
- the closing date for applications.

## 2. Application Face Sheet

This form provides basic information about the applicant and the proposed project with C&Y Branch, including the signature of the individual authorized to sign “official documents” for the agency. This form is the application’s cover page. Signature affirms that the facts contained in the applicant’s response to RFA # A-388 are truthful, and that the applicant is in compliance with the assurances and certifications that follow this form and acknowledges that continued compliance is a condition for the award of a contract. Please follow the instructions below.

1. Legal Name of Agency:	
2. Name of individual with Signature Authority:	
3. Mailing Address (include zip code+4):	
4. Address to which checks will be mailed:	
5. Street Address:	
6. Contract Administrator: Name: Title:	Telephone Number: Fax Number: Email Address
7. Agency Status (check all that apply):  <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Local Health Department	
8. Agency Federal Tax ID Number:	9. Agency DUNS Number:
10. Agency’s URL (website):	
11. Agency’s Financial Reporting Year:	
12. Current Service Delivery Areas (county(ies) and communities):	
13. Proposed Area(s) To Be Served with Funding (county(ies) and communities):	
14. Amount of Funding Requested	
15. Projected Expenditures: Does applicant’s state and/or federal expenditures exceed \$500,000 for applicant’s current fiscal year (excluding amount requested in #14)    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
The facts affirmed by me in this application are truthful and I warrant that the applicant is in compliance with the assurances and certifications contained in NC DHHS/DPH Assurances Certifications. I understand that the truthfulness of the facts affirmed herein and the continuing compliance with these requirements are conditions precedent to the award of a contract. The governing body of the applicant has duly authorized this document and I am authorized to represent the applicant.	
16. Signature of Authorized Representative:	17. Date

### 3. Applicant's Response

#### A. Needs Assessment:

Please describe the needs and the problems families with CYSHCN in the county(ies) you propose to serve, how the county(ies) currently address(es) and/or fails to address community systems issues to ensure the health, equity, and well-being of CYSHCN, what services are available to families of CYSHCN who desire and would benefit from support, and what types of system changes are needed. Provide information on procedures you will use to do an in-depth analysis of systems issues for CYSHCN and their families.

*Note: 15 points. Maximum two (2) pages, single spaced, 1-inch margins and Times Roman 12 font*

*Score distribution: Excellent 15 points, Good 11-14 points, Average 5-10 points, Poor 1-4 points.*

#### B. Existing systems profile:

Please describe the types and numbers of child serving organizations in your service area and the relationship between the organizations. In particular, be sure to describe your partnership/collaboration with local primary care providers. In addition to child health organizations, include schools, social service, mental health, other child serving entities and pertinent resources.

*Note: 15 points. Maximum two (2) pages, single spaced, 1-inch margins and Times Roman 12 font*

*Score distribution: Excellent 15 points, Good 11-14 points, Average 5-10 points, Poor 1-4 points.*

#### C. Capacity and Readiness:

Please list key partners and describe the services they provide for CYSHCN and their role in this initiative. Describe your agency's experience and readiness in assembling an effective community coalition. Describe your agency's experience in gathering qualitative community data. Describe your agency's training and experience in the systems approach to community change and provide an example of a possible system change. Describe your agency's experience in working with families of CYSHCN. Describe how you will recruit families to participate in your IA steering committee and to participate in any need's assessment activities.

*Note: 20 points. Maximum three (3) pages, single spaced, 1-inch margins and Times Roman 12 font. All support letters will be considered attachments and not part of the 2-page limit.*

*Score distribution: Excellent 16-20 points, Good 11-15 points, Average 6-10 points, Poor 1-5 points.*

#### D. Planning and Implementation:

Planning - Describe your proposed IA steering committee and its operational structure. List your proposed members and describe what role they will have. Describe the committee leadership structure and how you will move from discussion to action. Discuss the process

the committee will use to collect data and assess the current system of care. Discuss how you plan to orient your committee on the systems change approach rather than a program-based approach to addressing community health issues. Describe how the committee will identify and analyze root cause issues and prioritize identified system problems. Discuss the process your committee will use to develop an action plan addressing identified system problems. Discuss how you will leverage community resources to implement the action plan. Describe how you will maintain genuine and meaningful family leadership, participation, and input in your planning process.

Implementing – It is expected that your committee will begin implementing the action plan for systems change after a 6-9-month planning period. Describe how you will move from discussion to action. Describe how you will know the system change was implemented and the impact that occurred. Describe any challenges you may encounter and how you may overcome them.

**\*If you are an existing Innovative Approaches site**, describe systems issues from your existing action plan and your planned activities to address these systems changes. Describe systems changes created by your team over the past three to nine years. These should be examples of changes to written policies, practices, or procedures versus a list of events or trainings.

*Note: 40 points. Maximum six (6) pages, single spaced, 1-inch margins and Times Roman 12 font*

*Score distribution: Excellent 31-40 points, Good 21-30 points, Average 11-20 points, Poor 1-10 points.*

#### **E. Sustainability:**

Please describe your agency's experience in sustaining community health efforts after grant funds have ended. Please describe any recent sustainable changes in the system of care for CYSHCN, include a discussion of the policies, procedures, or practices that were changed. Describe sustainability of the project beyond the three-year grant period by identifying potential community resources, in-kind support from other agencies. Describe your agency's capacity and staff development efforts that will support continued system building beyond the grant project.

**\*If you are an existing Innovative Approaches site**, describe sustainability progress in the eight areas outlined in the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (<https://www.sustaintool.org/>) including environmental support, funding stability, partnerships, organizational capacity, program evaluation, program adaptation, communications, and strategic planning.

*Note: 10 points. Maximum two (2) pages, single spaced, 1-inch margins and Times Roman 12 font*

*Score distribution: Excellent 9-10 points, Good 6-8 points, Average 4-5 points, Poor 1-3 points*

#### **4. Project Budget**

Use the template on pages 22 and 23 for presenting year 1 budget and justification. Feel free to expand the template to multiple pages to accommodate a more detailed budget justification. The project budget is not part of the application and not included as part of the 15-page limit but must still be submitted. Also note that Year 2 and 3 detailed budgets will be developed during your steering committee's work in year 1.

Category	Line Item	Amount	Detail/Narrative Justification
<b>Human Resources</b>			
	Salary/Wages	\$	<i>Note: Description of FTE(s) duties and % time.</i>
	Fringe Benefits	\$	<i>Note: Calculation of fringe from FTE(s) above.</i>
	Other		<i>Note: Indirect Costs not to exceed 10% of total budget.</i>
<b>Total Human Resources</b>		\$	
<b>Operational Expenses/Capital Outlays</b>			
Supplies and Materials			
	Furniture	\$	
	Other	\$	<i>Note: Office supplies, postage, etc.</i>
Equipment			
	Communication	\$	
	Office	\$	
	IT	\$	
	Assistive Technology	\$	
	Other	\$	
	Board Members Expense	\$	
Utilities			
	Gas	\$	
	Electric	\$	
	Telephone	\$	
	Water	\$	
	Other	\$	
Repair and Maintenance		\$	
Staff Development		\$10,000	<i>Note: Please hold \$10,000 for annual DPH required training and technical assistance.</i>
Media/Communications			

	Promotional Items	\$	
	Publications	\$	
	PSAs and Ads	\$	
	Reprints	\$	
	Text translation	\$	
	Websites and Web Materials	\$	
Rent			
	Office Space	\$	
	Equipment	\$	
	Other	\$	
Professional Services			
	Legal	\$	
	IT	\$	
	Accounting	\$	
	Payroll	\$	
	Security	\$	
Dues and Subscriptions		\$	
Other			
	Audit Services	\$	
	Service Payments	\$	
	Incentives and Participants	\$	<i>Note: Reimbursement of stipends, travel, materials, meeting costs incurred by participating family members.</i>
	Insurance and Bonding	\$	
	Other	\$	
<b>Total Operational Expenses/Capital Outlays</b>		\$	
Subcontracts with other partnering agencies			
Data Collection & Needs Assessment		\$10,000	<i>Note: Please hold \$10,000 for annual DPH required data collection and needs assessment.</i>
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>		\$	<b>Not to exceed \$132,400</b>

## **5. Letters of Commitment**

Submit letters of support/commitment from local partners and stakeholders. Letters of commitment should be from agencies such as the local primary care providers, Division of Social Services (DSS), Local Management Entity (LME), Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies (CABHA), Smart Start, Local Education Agency (LEA), health care providers, CYSHCN support and advocacy groups, and families of CYSHCN. Letters of support should describe how the supporting agency will be involved with the LHD in Innovative Approaches and what they will contribute to the effort. Scoring for the quality of your support letters will be considered in sections D and E of Applicants Response. Please do not include form letters.



**6. IRS Letter**

Provide a copy of a letter from the IRS which documents your organization's tax identification number. The organization's name and address on the letter must match your current organization's name and address.

## Appendix I

### The Goals of Innovative Approaches

The intent of IA is to make sustainable systems changes (changes in policies, procedures, and practices) to improve the system of care experienced by families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). These improvements are measured by indicators established by the Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau and are assessed through the National Survey of Children's Health.

<http://www.childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH>

#### **Goal 1 - Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs will partner in decision making at all levels and will be satisfied with the services they receive.**

**Actions - Change written policies, procedures, and sustainable practices** to increase the number of families of CYSHCN who feel that:

- 1) Providers discuss a range of options for their child's treatment;
- 2) They are encouraged to ask questions or raise concerns;
- 3) It is easy to ask questions or raise concerns; and
- 4) Their health care providers consider and respect what treatment choices the parent feels would be best for child.

#### **Goal 2 - All Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs will receive coordinated ongoing comprehensive care within a medical home.**

**Actions - Change written policies, procedures, and sustainable practices** to increase the number of families of CYSHCN who have:

- 1) Usual sources of care when sick and well;
- 2) A personal doctor or nurse;
- 3) No problems getting needed referrals or specialty care; and
- 4) Effective care coordination; and adequate time with providers to discuss their child's concerns.

#### **Goal 3 – Families of children with special health care needs have adequate health insurance and financing to pay for needed services.**

**Actions - Change written policies, procedures, and sustainable practices** to increase the number of families of CYSHCN who have:

- 1) Insurance coverage over the past 12 months;
- 2) Access to plans that offer benefits and services that meet the child's needs;
- 3) Health plans in which the family considers the costs to be reasonable;
- 4) A health plan that allows the child to see the providers he or she needs; and

- 5) Information and access to programs and services CSHCN use to meet their medical and educational needs, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), early intervention, and special education.

**Goal 4 - All children will be screened early and continuously for special health care needs.**

**Actions - Change written policies, procedures, and sustainable practices** to increase the number of CYSHCN who receive:

- 1) Annual well-child check-ups; and regular dental visits; and
- 2) Developmental screenings, screening for autism, and for psychosocial issues with appropriate referrals.

**Goal 5 - Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and their families will be organized in ways that families can use them easily.**

**Actions - Change written policies, procedures, and sustainable practices** to increase the number of families of CYSHCN who:

- 1) Are eligible for needed services;
- 2) Have needed services available in their area;
- 3) Have no waiting lists or other problems getting appointments;
- 4) Have limited issues related to cost;
- 5) Have no trouble getting needed information; and
- 6) Have a mechanism to provide feedback as to the ease to which they were able to get services.

**Goal 6 - All Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs will receive the services necessary to make appropriate transitions.**

**Actions - Change written policies, procedures, and sustainable practices** to increase the number of health care providers of CYSHCN, ages 12-17, who:

- 1) Encourage increasing responsibility for self-care, including taking medication, understanding [his/her] diagnosis, or following medical advice; and have the opportunity to discuss transition from pediatric to adult health care, including self-management and health insurance coverage.

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