



Health Access Fund - Grant Program

Request for Proposals

August 17, 2022

GRANT OVERVIEW

Background

In partnership with Uber, PayPal and Walgreens, LISC has created a new opportunity to support health equity by addressing transportation barriers to accessing services. The “Health Access Fund” broadens the use of funds initially earmarked to improve equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine via the Vaccine Access Fund (VAF), to support broader access to essential health care and other services for individuals and communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic, particularly people of color living on low incomes. Informed by feedback from many of the 80+ community-based participants of the VAF who collectively coordinated more than 77,000 free rides with Uber to facilitate access to healthcare for un- and under-vaccinated individuals, this expanded focus aligns with the VAF’s original goal of reducing health disparities and advancing health equity.

LISC will disburse the Health Access Fund via grants to community-based organizations to support transportation (rides with Uber) to and from health care appointments and other essential services, and to support deeper investments in community-based interventions that address transportation barriers in regions with limited rideshare options.

Goals & Approach

LISC will award grants to community-based organizations in the following 3 categories (more details below): **1) Access to health care services via rides with Uber; 2) Access to services and activities that address social determinants of health via rides with Uber; and 3) Access to health care in regions with limited rideshare options.** In all cases, funding will be prioritized for proposals that focus on improving maternal health (e.g., rides to and from prenatal and postpartum appointments and other services that support healthy pregnancies), managing chronic disease (e.g., diabetes, cancer, HIV, substance use disorder, behavioral/mental health, etc.), supporting access to gender-affirming care, supporting older adults (e.g., rides to and from multiple healthcare access points, transportation support for care team home visits, etc.), and/or reducing food insecurity.

Awards will be broken out among the categories as follows:

- 10-15 grants ranging from \$140,000 to \$1,250,000, supporting a projected ride volume of 250 rides/month to 3,000 rides/month, will be made under the first 2 categories. Proposals may include a combination of activities under categories 1 and 2. A minimum of 50% of the proposed budget under categories 1 and/or 2 must be allocated to cover the cost of free rides with Uber.
- 2-4 grants ranging in size from \$100,000 to \$300,000 will be made under the 3rd category.

Funding Categories:

1) Access to health care services via rides with Uber. *(Approximately \$4,400,000 will support activities under this category)*

Grants in this category will support rides with Uber to services including primary and specialty care medical appointments, mental health appointments, lab appointments, radiology/screenings, pharmacy services (including prescription medication delivery by health center escort or representative) at the patient's pharmacy of choice, COVID-19 vaccines at the patient's provider of choice, nutrition services (including nutritionist appointments, food pantry visits or deliveries, healthy meal delivery), and patient home visits by health professionals. Grant funds can be used to cover the cost of rides with Uber (coordinated on the Uber Health platform), community and patient outreach and engagement, care navigation, ride coordination and program administration.

2) Access to services and activities that address social determinants of health via rides with Uber. *(Approximately \$2,200,000 will support activities under this category)*

Grants in this category will be made to address the indirect health impacts of the pandemic by funding rides with Uber to services that address social determinants of health, such as job training programs, financial coaching and employment programs, food distribution sites, housing support services and benefits enrollment centers. Grant funds can be used to cover the cost of rides to and from appointments, community outreach and engagement, ride coordination and program administration.

3) Access to health care in regions with limited rideshare options. *(Approximately \$600,000 will support activities under this category)*

Grants under this category will support access to health care services for individuals living in regions with limited or no access to app-driven ride share. Grants will be made to organizations that overcome transportation barriers by taking health care services into the community with models such as mobile medical clinics, school-based health centers, patient transportation vehicles, community ride-sharing programs, home-visiting programs, prescription medication delivery programs, or pop-up clinics. Services may be delivered in public gathering areas, parking lots, schools, libraries, community centers, workplaces, private homes, etc. Grant dollars can be used to fund the purchase of vehicles, supplies, and equipment, and/or may be used to support staffing and capacity-building for programs that provide access to health care services.

How Ride Booking Works (applicable to grants made under categories 1 and 2)

If selected to receive a grant under category 1 and/or 2, your organization will:

- Establish an Uber Health account, which will give you access to a HIPAA aligned web-dashboard where you can request rides on behalf of those who need them. The riders do not need to have the Uber app, smartphone or credit card; communications about their rides will be given via text messages or landline calls, available in multiple languages.
- Identify one or more Ride Coordinators who will work with clients who need transportation, provide ride request intakes, and book rides on the Uber Health dashboard on behalf of their clients.

- Participate in Ride Coordinator training on how the Uber Health platform works. Ride Coordinators will be trained online by Uber Health (one-hour trainings offered weekly), and will be provided other resources.
- Identify an Administrator who will liaise with Uber Health and monitor the cost and volume of rides you have booked by running reports on the dashboard.
- Review invoices from Uber Health and pay Uber Health directly for the cost of the rides you arrange on a monthly basis (Uber is not earning profit on these rides). You will need to choose between paying your monthly invoice via credit card or ACH bank transfer. Paper checks and switching back and forth between payment methods is not an option.
- Manage the grant funding from LISC to cover the cost of your payments to Uber Health. LISC will not be able to increase your total grant amount once awarded, so if you spend the amount allocated for rides before the end of the grant period, you may use grant dollars from other line items to pay for rides, use non-LISC funding to pay for rides, or end ride-booking before the end of the grant period. Please note that any rides booked with non-LISC funding will need to be done through a separate Uber Health account, which Uber will help set up.

Requirements

Organizations that are approved for funding are required to:

- Collect and report data about program services and patients/participants (e.g., participant demographics, # individuals served, # rides, types of services accessed, household economic and/or social characteristics, etc.).
- Participate in evaluation activities, which will include patient/participant surveys, service provider surveys, interviews, or focus groups.
- Participate in periodic check-ins with the LISC National Health team and with the evaluator.
- Submit progress reports that include narrative, quantitative, and financial updates. A final report will also be required at the conclusion of the grant.
- Adjust the planned approach/implementation plan if needed in response to changing circumstances or barriers encountered during implementation.
- Participate in site visits by LISC as requested.
- Support communications efforts to publicize grant activities, findings, and stories wherever possible.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Eligibility and Selection

LISC will select grantees, either 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, or public entities such as local departments of health, based on the following criteria:

Readiness

- Demonstrated track record of serving low-income communities of color and/or underserved and vulnerable communities
- Demonstrated experience with implementing proposed activities
- Depth/breadth of partnerships with other community-based service providers to support enhanced impact of grant activities on community health and wellness

Impact

- Demonstrated need to address transportation as a barrier to accessing health care or services related to social determinants of health for people of color living on low incomes, especially for people who are under-insured, uninsured, undocumented immigrants, refugees, and/or survivors of domestic violence.
- Number of individuals impacted

Proposed Methods

- Understanding of barriers to implementation, and proposed plans to overcome the barriers
- Understanding of community members' prior experience with rideshare services (or lack thereof), and strength of plans to overcome barriers to uptake.
- Alignment of proposed activities with grant program's priority health conditions/patient characteristics
- Clarity of operational plan for identifying the target population, implementing program activities, collecting and reporting data, participating in evaluation activities, and managing the LISC grant overall

Budget

- Justification of budget, including reasonable administration costs, compelling application of dollars for outreach, incentives, or other uses to support the program strategy

LISC's selection process will also factor in the importance of supporting organizations with BIPOC leadership, consistent with LISC's [Project 10X](#) goals; geographic diversity among the slate of awardees; and diversity in types of health-promoting services (e.g. primary care access, healthy food access, other).

How to Apply

Organizations may only submit one application. Applications must be completed and submitted via the [online application](#) (a preview of the application is available [here](#)). Applications may be submitted through September 16, 2022 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. All awards will be determined and funds committed by October 31, 2022. The grant period will run through December 31, 2023.

Grant Contact information

Phoebe Christian, Director, National Health Programs
health@lisc.org