

Age-Friendly Public Health Learning and Action Network: Mini-Grant Funding Opportunity for Washington Local Health Jurisdictions

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Trust for America's Health (TFAH) are offering the opportunity for partnerships of local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and/or tribal health programs/clinics and their respective Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to join the Washington Age-Friendly Public Health System (AFPHS) Learning and Action Network to explore and expand their roles to address the health needs of older adults in their communities. The AFPHS Learning and Action Network is a collaborative that will provide mini-grant awardees an opportunity to learn from state and national partners, from one another, and from AFPHS Advisory Committee members via webinars and in-person meetings. While the funding will go to the LHJs or tribal health programs/clinics, their AAA partners will jointly receive training and technical assistance to enhance their capacity to work together in promoting healthy aging, based on TFAH's Framework for [Creating an Age-Friendly Public Health System](#). This initiative is made possible with funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation.

If you would like more information about this initiative, please see this [introductory webinar](#) from December 2020.

This document has three parts. Part 1 describes the benefits, expectations of grantees, funding details, and key dates for applying and participating. **Part 2** describes the application process, including the questions to be answered by applicants. **Part 3** offers action step examples.

PART 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What are the benefits of participating in the Age-Friendly Public Health System (AFPHS) Learning and Action Network?

- Funding to expand the role of public and tribal health programs/ clinics in addressing the health and wellbeing of older adults (up to \$10,000).
- Support from state and national partners as well as other learning and action network members to develop or enhance current AFPHS work.
- Access to county level Medicare data which provides more detailed information regarding the health of older adults.
- Training from national and state experts.
- Support to work towards completion of the requirements in [TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Recognition Program](#).
- Strengthening applications for Public Health Accreditation:
 - In 2022, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) will be encouraging health departments to include initiatives and strategies focused on healthy aging and the creation of an AFPHS into their work. See [Healthy Aging and PHAB Health Department Accreditation](#) for more details.
- Partnerships and collaborations between local public health, tribal health programs/clinics, and AAAs that enhance the capacity to assess and address the health needs of your aging population.

What will be expected of grantees?

- ✓ Applicants will be expected to partner with their county's Area Agency on Agency (AAA) or other aging service network organizations in their community and provide a letter of support from this aging partner. If you need an introduction to your local AAA, please contact Marci Getz at Marci.Getz@DOH.WA.GOV.

Over the course of the project, grantees are expected to:

- ✓ Participate in both national and state-level AFPHS Learning and Action Network learning opportunities, including webinars and peer learning calls. There will be approximately one call per month lasting between 1-2 hours in length.
- ✓ Work with partners to assess local assets, needs, and priorities.
- ✓ Develop a county or tribal specific AFPHS Action Plan to help improve the health and lives of older adults.
- ✓ Commit to implementing one of the ten action steps in [TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Recognition Program](#) as part of your AFPHS Action Plan. **See Part 3: Possible Action Step Examples.**
- ✓ Provide content specific to healthy aging, brain health, and Alzheimer's disease/dementia on agency website, including links to national, state, and local resources (much of this content will be provided by DOH).
- ✓ Travel to Olympia or another location for AFPHS Action and Learning Network convenings (when travel becomes feasible). There will be two convenings, each lasting approximately six hours. Additional travel information is provided below under funding details.
- ✓ Share lessons learned across the AFPHS Networks, including brief written quarterly updates and a short final report.
- ✓ To participate in this grant opportunity, the selected agencies will be required to enter into a contractual agreement with DOH.

Funding Details

- Grants of up to \$10,000 each will be provided to participating LHJs or Tribal Public Health organizations (only one application can be submitted per LHJ or tribe).
 - Funds will be offered for the period of January 2022 through April 1, 2023
 - All deliverables, including documents resulting from grant activities must be developed during the grant period.
- Grant funds **may be** used for project staff salaries, supplies, project-related (local) travel, subcontracts, community convenings, and other direct expenses.
- Grant funds **may not** be used to substitute for or replace funds already allocated or spent for the same activity; or for equipment, construction or renovation of facilities, lobbying, travel unrelated to the project, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.
- Travel to Olympia or another location for AFPHS Learning and Action Network convening(s) is required and will be reimbursed separately, based on [WA State Per Diem Rates](#) and will include mileage and per diem for meals and hotel. This will be reimbursed separately for one participant from the LHJ, tribe and AAA per county team. In-person convenings will take place once it is safe to do so; until then convenings will take place virtually, due to COVID-19.

Key Dates

Activities	Who?	Completion Dates
Release of application	DOH	9/30/21
Deadline for receipt of applications	Interested applicants	11/15/21
Announcement of awards	DOH	12/1/21
Establish funding contracts	DOH & award recipients	12/31/21
Learning and Action Network kick-off	TFAH, DOH, LHJs, Tribes, AAAs & AFPHS Advisory Committee	1/2022
Final report and deliverables due	LHJs & Tribes	4/1/2023

PART 2: APPLICATION PROCESS

We invite you to complete this application to become a member of the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network, facilitated by DOH, TFAH and the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Advisory Committee.

If you are interested, please submit your responses to the questions below to Marci Getz at Marci.Getz@doh.wa.gov by Monday, November 15, 2021 by 5 p.m. PST. You may email Marci with any questions or concerns.

1. Name of person submitting application
2. Title
3. Local Health Jurisdiction or Tribal Organization
4. Email
5. Phone
6. Evidence of support from leadership from the applying LHJ or Tribe, such as a brief email or letter of support.
7. Describe any age-friendly activities in which you have been or are currently engaged. Please respond in no more than 500 words.
8. Describe why you are applying to be part of this collaborative and what you hope to accomplish from participating. Please respond in no more than 500 words.
9. Have you reached out to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or other aging service network organization that serves your county?
 - a. Are they interested in working with your local health jurisdiction or tribe on this grant?
 - b. If yes, please include a copy of their letter of support (this can be in the form of an email).
10. Please provide the name of the primary representative who will work on this initiative and the name of a back-up to fill in when needed.

Scoring Criteria

We hope to fund all applicants that agree to the Grantee Expectations. However, if we get more applicants than we can fund, DOH in consultation with the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Advisory Committee and Trust for America's Health will use scoring criteria to determine which applicants will be funded. The selection committee will prioritize applications that:

- Have a commitment to partner with their county Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or other aging network organizations in their community.
- Result in a mix of rural and urban areas throughout the state, highlighting diverse populations.
- Result in a balance of LHJs and tribes, representing differing levels of experience with age-friendly work.

PART 3: POSSIBLE ACTION STEP EXAMPLES

Provided below are five of the 10 action steps from [TFAH AFPHS Recognition Program](#) and some examples of activities AFPHS Learning and Action Network members could do. Please know these are only examples offered to help spark ideas. In this initiative, each team will select their own action step(s) and activities that best meet the needs of their county/tribe.

- **Data:** Collect, analyze and disseminate data and other information on the health and well-being of older adults
 - Example: Establish a priority around older adult health in Community Health Assessments or Community Improvement Plans.
- **Age-Friendly Communities:** Engage with and support AARP/WHO Age-Friendly Communities effort or Dementia-friendly communities:
 - [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#)
 - [World Health Organization-Age-Friendly Cities](#)
 - [Better Together: A Comparative Analysis of Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities](#)
 - [World Health Organization-New WHO toolkit promotes inclusion of people with dementia in society](#)
- **Assessment:** Review existing public health programs to assess if and how they serve older adults.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Ensure that public health emergency preparedness addresses the needs of older adults, particularly the most vulnerable, and their caregivers.
 - Example: Work with local health jurisdictions and tribes to amend emergency preparedness and response plans to include information specific to people with dementia or Alzheimer's and their caregivers.
- **Adaptation:** Adapt work of existing programs to address the needs of older adults.
 - Example: Create or join a multi-sector coalition or committee to address COVID-19 vaccine access and/or hesitancy in older adults, with a focus on health equity.
 - Example: Develop & implement plans to share messaging related to the connection between chronic disease prevention and/or management and brain health.