



2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The following document outlines our 2021 approach to Telligen Community Initiative (TCI) philanthropy

The following outlines our approach to providing community-based funding support in 2021. We are no longer using a Letter of Interest (LOI) as part of our grantmaking process. The return to a one-step application will allow for a quicker turnaround time and a better opportunity for applicants to detail their project application. This suggestion came from responses to applicant perception surveys and our desire to quicken our funding process at a time of unprecedented need. As a result, the new application combines the best parts of the LOI and finalist grant application to be a comprehensive vehicle for organizations to tell their story. TCI will also continue to utilize an online portal to support a streamlined application process and user experience.

The following is an outline of the document that describes our funding approach and application process. You will notice 1) TCI is moving to a one-step application, as well as 2) a COVID-19 response subcategory that has been added to each traditional funding priority to acknowledge the reality of navigating the pandemic and how it naturally fits in our priorities. Thank you for your valuable community-based work.

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ABOUT TELLIGEN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Telligen Community Initiative (TCI) is a private, non-profit foundation originated by Telligen, Inc. TCI works from a vision of helping empower organizations and citizens to improve their individual and overall community health. Our mission is to initiate and support innovative and forward-looking health-related projects aimed at improving health, social well-being, and educational attainment.

Our philanthropy is done within the strategic funding priorities of:

1. Social determinants of health and health equity.
2. Health innovation.
3. Healthcare workforce development.

TCI WORKS FROM THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

TCI wants to advance a framework that brings together health care delivery systems, public health agencies, community organizations and health educators to improve health. We seek to be a foundation that works to create and sustain collaborations where health responsibility is shared and accountable by all. TCI philanthropy seeks to provide catalytic funding to those that share this belief and can spread its adoption. The following represents guiding principles for our approach to philanthropic support:

- ▶ Every person deserves health education and services, especially the most vulnerable members of our communities.
- ▶ Health promotion provides opportunities for the development of community and individual capacity.
- ▶ Many factors shape health and health outcomes (social determinants of health), putting a premium on prevention and integration of health with other community stakeholders and sectors.
- ▶ Active and intentional collaboration with others that share common ground, views, and beliefs.
- ▶ When possible, we would like to support regional health and education efforts that reach multi-county or even statewide audiences.

During our over 16-year history, we have funded many worthwhile projects and initiatives. We have learned the most effective way to make change and have the greatest impact is to foster and support collaborative efforts and initiatives that embrace and address the social determinants of health within their planning and work. This lens is what empowers us and creates a more upstream focus and definition of health. This view informs our resulting community support investments. To read about successful previously funded grants, please visit our website (www.telligenci.org) or you are always encouraged to contact TCI staff to discuss your project idea to see if we have recently funded projects like what you want to pursue.



2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TCI funding for 2021 will continue to focus on improving the health of communities within the context of specific funding priority areas. These priority areas were identified to define TCI's community responsive grant programming more specifically, to produce more defined themes within our priority areas, and to enhance the portability and replication potential of similarly themed projects across Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma communities.

We continue to believe in multiple funding mechanisms that try to meet applicants where they are in their work and evolution. This could encompass multiple themes or forms of support:

- ▶ First-dollar, programmatic, or seed funding to nonprofit organizations or governmental entities is a powerful contribution TCI can make to positively impact health status.
- ▶ This funding can also be positioned to provide enhancing core support for critical work of an organization in strong alignment with our funding priorities.
- ▶ Expansion or spread of already impactful and successful approaches you are doing to other populations or geography.

- ▶ This funding could also be evaluated by a potential applicant to support meaningful capacity building of an organization to better deliver its work or mission that strongly aligns with TCI funding priorities.

In all we do, TCI seeks to support projects that are at the intersection of and connect clinical and community-based work; build on collaborations to address underserved populations and recognize the role of the social determinants of health within the design of project plans and proposal development. We want to meet you where your work is currently positioned and contribute to the successful advancement of your mission.

That said, TCI also feels it is necessary to offer greater clarity and definition around our funding priorities based on our own funding experiences over the past six years. Our number of applicants continues to rise year after year. This is exciting on one hand in that more nonprofit organizations, community coalitions, and educators are becoming aware of our philanthropy. It also creates a challenge in that the number of applicants can become self-defeating and discourage people from pursuing our funding due to the high level of competition – both quantity and quality.

Because of this reality, TCI has provided a greater focus on the types of projects we are most interested in funding in 2021. This offers a tighter set of desired projects under each of our three priorities while encompassing pandemic-based options

as well as being mindful of the realities we are all continuing to navigate into 2021 related to COVID-19. The themes or project types we intend to support align with past grantee investments that have been successful with our level of funding investment over the past six years. It is hoped this will help both focus our work further and intentionally decrease the applicant pool to only those whose work more directly aligns with these project types that the RFP solicits.

What follows in our priority funding discussion represents the top themes and global project types within each of our three (3) funding priority areas. These represent the only types of projects we prefer to receive in 2021. Each priority introduction includes a brief description about the funding areas and a list of ways that initiatives and projects could be positioned for funding consideration – themes about the types of grants TCI will fund in 2021. More so than in our previous five years, your proposals in 2021 need to align tightly to these strategic areas.

We obviously want to foster innovation and creativity, but we are expecting grantees to follow these strategies and customize them more around localized need and spread potential as opposed to other project types. TCI will prioritize its philanthropic support within each priority funding areas in this manner for 2021.

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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH / HEALTH EQUITY:

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. The social determinants of health can be most responsible for resulting health inequities. TCI believes in advancing health equity and achieving this requires novel approaches to positively address the social determinants of health. The range of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health status are known as determinants of health. It is the interrelationships among these factors that determine individual and population health. This interrelationship and connection to health is a connection we want to support with our resources.

- 1. Coordination Care:** Can take the form of any health condition prevention and/or management, place-based care management, and/or other approaches to target populations/locations for primary care and behavioral health interventions.
- 2. Housing/Health Intersection:** Stages funding support to strengthen housing equity/affordability, supportive housing tailored to vulnerable populations, tenant/resident advocacy, and/or any other solutions to the current housing crisis.
- 3. COVID-19 Response to Food Insecurity:** Could include COVID-19 created options around mobile clinics, food delivery or increased food resource needs due to expected unemployment growth. May also be equipping food bank settings to accept and promote food assistance programs, bridges between health care settings as venues for outreach and enrollment support, or equipping venues to meet the dietary needs of those facing chronic conditions.



HEALTH INNOVATION:

This area is encouraged to think creatively and differently regarding issues and opportunities that can bring innovation to the way we all envision to achieve and advance health.

- 1. Telehealth/data for health interventions:** Potentially include longer term/ongoing solutions to permanently embrace telehealth, evaluate the clinical and organizational impacts of telehealth deployments to justify ongoing resource allocations (organizational and payers), and/or further adaptation of IT tool for safety net organization/ specific organization types that might need additional resources to maximize telehealth potential (prioritizing Federally-Qualified Health Centers, School-based Health Centers, free and charitable clinics, and/or rural health clinics).
- 2. Innovative Care Management:** Targeted and innovative case management approaches with certain target populations or condition-specific acumen. Could also encompass using different community resources/venues for health promotion and delivery (i.e. a library) or data sharing/cross-organizational work/community referral capabilities that could benefit the ability to serve clients on a more permanent basis via dedicated resources.
- 3. COVID-19 response to nonprofit organizational capacity:** Funding may strengthen organizational adaptivity to sustain in this challenging COVID environment, such as supporting the ability to assess, respond, and/or monitor the current climate while creating needed internal or external changes to preserve ongoing operations. Could also aid in the merger of multiple safety net providers, assist a state association with expanding the data or planning capacity of their entire network, and/or help organizations plan for new or different financial modeling or fund development/diversification planning for a more sustainable future.



HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

TCI believes the challenges of health workforce shortages and an aging population (health workforce and general public) will require progressive and a fundamental reshaping of the way in which patient care is delivered, especially for primary care. TCI also envisions change in the point of care and the roles of the interdisciplinary direct care team of providers needing to be factored into the needs of our future healthcare workforce.

- 1. Para-professional development:** Efforts to assist with elevation of current roles to consider how/if they could do more within their field (dental hygienists, speech language pathology assistants, medical assistants). This could also include more formalized field development and definition of community health workers, health navigators, and/or other emerging fields/disciplines.
- 2. Youth health career exploration/ student assistance:** Work in this area focuses on STEM and health career exploration work with youth, particularly aimed at underserved or first-generation populations making this pursuit as part of a livable wage/ two-generational approach to poverty reduction. May also take the form of student assistance programming to support at-risk student success programming and/or targeted assistance to avoid drop-outs at key points in an educational program pursuit.
- 3. COVID-19 response to health workforce:** This priority could support emerging contact tracing needs, training, equipment, or employee relief/ mental health support to strengthen workforce resiliency or any workforce preservation/sustainability throughout the evolving phases of the pandemic. This might also encompass efforts of public health stakeholders to receive the tools or supports needed to better organize and mobilize around regional solutions to vaccine distribution and logistical planning to deploy to our most underserved populations.

ONE-STEP APPLICATION RATIONALE

Our ability and capacity to provide greater funding, outreach, and geographic reach coincides with our increase in philanthropic resources and staffing since mid-2014 to the present. Because of this, we continue to learn and evolve to improve our funding processes. As such, after a trial period of implementing a two-step application process, TCI has decided it would better address applicant needs by shortening the overall funding review process as an applicant and ensure the optimal net-grant experience from TCI. Though longer than our past LOI, this application process will ensure applicants have enough room to clearly express the need for their program/project. Because there is only one step to the application process, we will offer you a timelier response to ultimately get funding in your hands if selected through the competitive process.

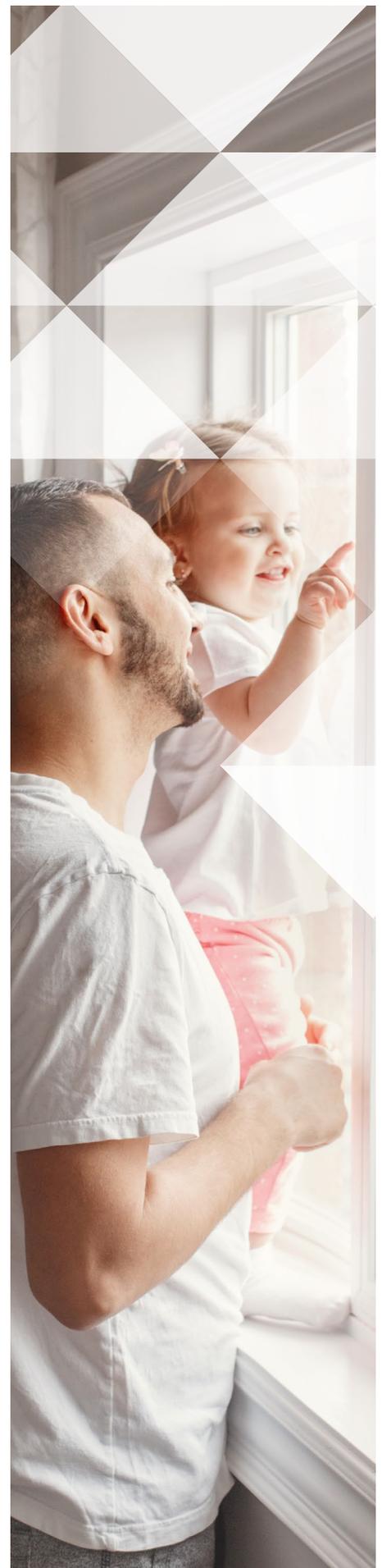
COVID RESPONSE RATIONALE

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has obviously impacted the majority of TCI applicants in one way or another, and we understand the social and economic implications of this virus are likely not going away any time soon. The recovery process will be arduous, so we hope our philanthropic support could add even a small amount of relief during this unprecedented time. Therefore, we have embedded a specific response category within our traditional funding priorities that could potentially meet the needs of many of our applicants addressing and/or experiencing hardships and/or challenges relating to the pandemic.

GEOGRAPHIC PROJECT REACH

As an applicant, TCI firmly believes in your ability to define what community means to you. For most of our applicants, this takes on some form of geography. An applicant could also decide to focus that definition or discussion around a group or type of person(s) or special populations. From a geographic standpoint, you are free to define community in the way you deem best fits your application and proposed grant work. This could be a neighborhood, zip code, or census track, city, county, multi-county area or even statewide reach. All approaches will be welcomed. The visual below provides a representation of cumulative funding awards from TCI during the most recent three-year period. Projects with statewide or multi-county geographic reach have been our overwhelming preference during the past several years (79.5% of awarded grants). We also are continuing a desire to support and favor rural projects more intentionally whenever possible. Regardless of geographic focus, we want to fund projects that show clear connection to localized community need and can demonstrate clear and demonstratable community or stakeholder impact.

<i>Geographic reach of applicant proposals</i>	<i>Percentage of funding awarded to projects with this geographic reach</i>
Statewide	37.5%
Multi-county	42%
County	9.8%
City or small designation	10.7%



ELIGIBILITY

To request a grant, your organization must be a recognized as a federally tax-exempt section 501(c)(3) charitable organization, an accredited school, or a public/governmental agency located in the states of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, or Oklahoma.

Note: a public agency is an organization established and primarily funded by a unit of government. Examples could include a public school, public library, local public health department, or state governmental agency. Note that TCI does not fund organizations with a pending 501(c)(3) status.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Not only is contact with TCI staff acceptable, but it is also strongly encouraged. Approximately two-thirds of our applicant pool contacted TCI staff to discuss some facet of their proposal prior to submission. This could take the form of a face-to-face (virtual) meeting, phone meeting, email conversation, review of a draft proposal, or other desired assistance in helping you or your coalition consider an application. Making contact is not a requirement and your proposal will not be advantaged or hurt in the scoring process for having a pre-submission discussion (or not). That said, staff is in place to help you create as competitive a proposal as possible to compete for limited funding support. Consider how you want to use them.

HOW TO APPLY

ONLINE GRANT APPLICATION PORTAL: As successfully introduced in 2020, TCI will continue the use of an online application portal. All materials will be available and linked from our website (www.telligenci.org) or the portal address itself (<https://ica.formstack.com/forms/telligen2021>).

The portal has a full user guide and instructions for how to use. You will have character limits to adhere to, but they correspond well to the past length of our one-step application processes. There are character counters that count down as you develop your responses. There are save-and-return features that allow you to not have to complete your application in a single session. It is designed to be both intuitive and user-friendly. The last page of this RFP offers the scoring rubric that will be used to evaluate and score your application.

Upon successful completion, your proposal contact will receive verification email confirmation, as well as a proposal identification number and time stamp of your responses as proof of submission.

TCI asks that your narrative be brief, but more importantly, provide a succinct and thorough presentation of the need or problem you have identified, the proposed solution, and your organization's qualifications for implementing that solution. The application portal has the following sections/elements:

TCI APPLICANT INFORMATION: This will ask you to offer and complete basic information for the following areas:

- ▶ **Applicant Information:** This will include address, primary contact information, website, and tax status.
- ▶ **Program/Project Information:** This will include project title, TCI funding priority alignment, funding request amount, and a brief summary of project.

GRANT NARRATIVE: Your application will address the following and be driven by character limits in each to force intentionality and succinct responses:

- ▶ **Summary of your organization:** Please give a brief description of your organization, including your current capacity (knowledge, resources, and/or services to successfully implement your strategy). (1500-character limit).
- ▶ **Synopsis of need:** Describe the problem and/or need that you are developing an innovative strategy to address. Please include your target population, how many people and/or organizations you estimate serving during the project period, and any localized data. (3000-character limit).
- ▶ **Project Design:** Describe the strategy you have created to address this problem (including methodology and implementation plan). (3000-character limit).
- ▶ **The why:** Explain how this project relates to your organization's overall mission. Why is your organization passionate about this? (3000-character limit).
- ▶ **Evaluation template:** Please develop three (3) to five (5) SMART objectives as they relate to your project's evaluation method and measurement. A template and examples will be provided in order for you to build objectives that reflect your program/projects evaluation methods and measurements (complete the portal template with a 300-character limit per objective).
- ▶ **Budget template:** Please complete the budget template as it relates to your proposed grant request for TCI consideration. This will require the completion of a template in the portal. Then plan to describe and justify your project/program budget as you completed in the template. (1500-character limit).
- ▶ **Organizational capacity:** Describe your organizational capacity to manage grant funding and sustain the overall funding needs of this program/project. (1500-character limit).

2021 GRANT SCHEDULE

Geographic Focus and Grant Cycles:

TCl funding encompasses support within Iowa, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Colorado. These four (4) states represent our desired capacity for the foreseeable future. Applications from all four (4) states will function with a per grant request maximum of \$50,000. We see this funding range as the lower level of funding necessary to begin to create community change and impact. We also see this level of funding as an amount that can hopefully be absorbed, or additional funding secured to meaningfully sustain beyond the life of our initial TCl grant period. All current TCl grants are for periods of one year. Please see the below funding calendar for 2021 with multi-state deadline groupings.

<i>Proposal Evaluation Element</i>	<i>Iowa or Oklahoma-based applications (\$50,000 per grant request ceiling)</i>	<i>Colorado or Illinois-based applications (\$50,000 per grant request ceiling)</i>
<i>Proposal due date to TCl (portal completion)</i>	March 1, 2021	June 15, 2021
<i>Grant period begins / funding received</i>	June 1, 2021	November 1, 2021

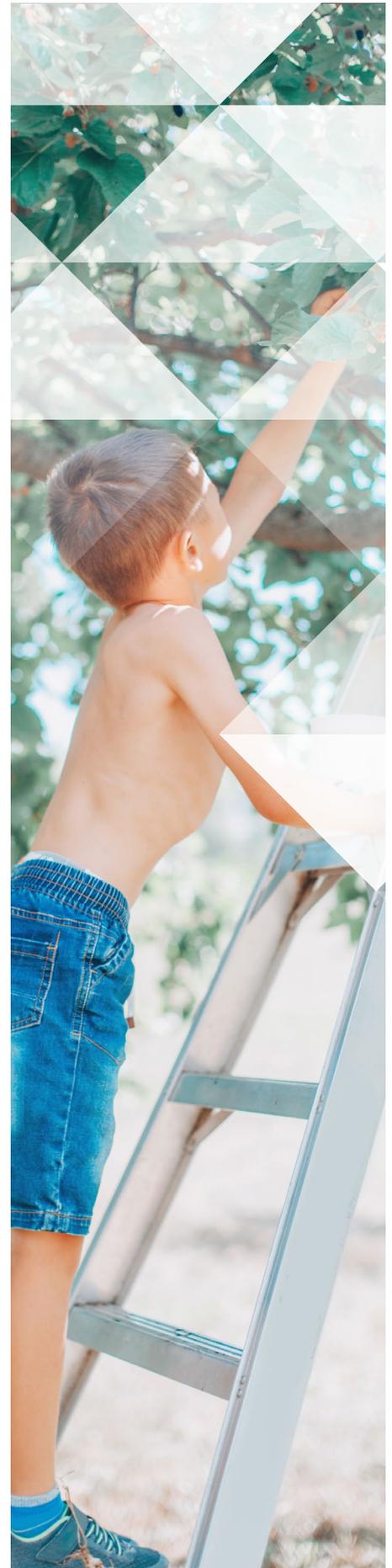
CONTACT INFORMATION



Matt McGarvey
Executive Director
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If you are considering a grant request or have questions about the grant process, please feel free to contact TCl staff for further assistance.

Upon release of the RFP, please feel comfortable and encouraged to reach out to TCl staff to discuss your proposal idea further and determine if you'll proceed in developing an application for one of our deadlines and/or how to make your concept as competitive as possible.



TELLIGEN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (TCI): 2021 ONE-STEP GRANT APPLICATION SCORING TOOL

Applicant: _____

Grant #: _____ Request Amount: _____

Step 1) Scoring Criteria (Objective gradation based on your assessment of applicant response versus that criteria item. Please use the following scoring ranges as a guide when completing your scoring in each criteria)						Points Earned (place your score in the box)
Total points possible	Outstanding	Very good	Satisfactory	Marginal	Poor	
5	5	4	3	2	1	
10	10	9-8	7	6	5-0	
15	15-14	13-12	11	10-9	8-0	
20	20-19	18-16	15-14	13-12	11-0	

Criteria	Points	Score
Organizational capacity: Does the organization or coalition demonstrate the capacity to make an impact? Does the organization seem mature enough to make the difference envisioned or required to be successful?	15	
Description of community need: Is the need supported by recent and localized data taking it well beyond anecdotal documentation?	15	
Description of project / program design: Is the project plan and design make sense? Is it appropriately connected to community and the targeted population and/or logically flow from the data that documents the opportunity?	15	
Organization mission / project alignment: Does this project align with the organizations overall mission? Does this project fall out of the organizations normal scope of work? What are their reasons for implementing this project/asking for this grant?	10	
Evaluation plan: Are intended results SMART and likely to be achieved – does the organization have a logical plan offered to assess progress and impact?	15	
Budget appropriateness: Is the budget well justified? Is the budget/budget rationale logical and aligned with the narrative work plan?	10	
Sustainability: As presented, is the organization likely to be able to sustain the work beyond the TCI duration of grant support? Does the organization have the current support to carry its project out?	10	
Previous grantee/uniqueness factor: Does the grant excite you? Is TCI likely to learn something from this work to inform others and/or have we had a positive experience funding similar work? If we have funded this organization before, was it a positive or negative funding experience?	10	
Step 2) Total Points for Criteria Review (add your assigned points earned values in each Step 1 element together for your total score out of 100 available points)	(total out of 100 possible points)	

Step 3) Reviewer Notes/Rationale (offer any personal review thoughts or justifications on the proposal – strengths or areas for improvement. This can be helpful in offering meaningful technical assistance to the applicant to improvement their approach and work product for future funding pursuits)