Special Funding Opportunity
provided by Telligen Community Initiative

Application submission opens as a rolling deadline on March 1, 2021, TCI is accepting applications for this opportunity from Colorado and Illinois. NowPow is TCI's selected technology partner for the grant.

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BACKGROUND

More and more in an era of accountable care communities, shared savings, and attempting to make Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) information more actionable, attempts are being made to bridge health and human service worlds through data for health tools. The desired outcome of such efforts is better client/patient outcomes and closer connections between clinical and human services stakeholders in a community. Helping bridge this gap represents a frequently requested type of support and a prime opportunity for philanthropy like Telligen Community Initiative (TCI) to creatively assist.

This funding intentionally brings together NowPow and TCI to support community-based projects to make SDOH information more actionable. NowPow connects people to the right community resources so they can stay well, meet basic needs, manage with illness and care for others more effectively. NowPow's personalized community referral platform fits into existing workflows, making it easy for clinicians, case workers, resource coordinators, payers, and other organizations to make high-quality referrals to trusted community services.

SDOH can contribute to poorer health, and coordination between healthcare and community-based resources is pivotal to addressing these needs. However, our healthcare system remains poorly equipped to address SDOH. The potential of health information technology (HIT) to bridge this gap across the delivery of healthcare and social services is incredible, but too often its potential remains untapped. Considering the pandemic, this type of interconnectivity between health and social service worlds is more important than ever, allowing for new and innovative pathways to care for others utilizing community support services.

COLLABORATORS

TCI will evaluate and review the applicants and fund the cost of utilizing the NowPow technology. The awardees will partner with NowPow, which includes the software, set up and ongoing team support to set up a successful intervention.

NowPow, whose name is a play on "Knowledge is Power", is a women-owned and led technology business based on Chicago's south side. NowPow is a personalized community referral platform that makes it easy to connect people to high quality, highly matched referrals so they can stay well, meet basic needs, manage with illness and care for others. They build community referral networks of all sizes and sectors that power care for all people, drive measurable impact, and deliver data to bridge gaps in community care. As the only referral platform grounded in science, NowPow's referrals are evidence-based, person-centered and highly trusted to comprehensively address both health and social needs. NowPow's unique population health solution also provides deep community resource and referral insights to support process improvement, network health and quality, and care access and experience. NowPow helps people know where to go and builds the connections to get them there.

Telligen Community Initiative (TCI) is the charitable foundation founded in 2005 that provides philanthropic support to organizations and projects that strive to improve the health of communities. TCI's overall goal is to ensure opportunities for health are available and equitably accessible.

OPPORTUNITY

The support of philanthropy to advance innovation and meaningful work to address SDOH has repeatedly led to requests based on the premise of connecting sectors – traditional health care to human/social service and educational counterparts – for the benefit of clients, patients, and community members. TCI and NowPow intentionally collaborated to jointly work on advancing viable solutions to this commonly requested community need. They have come together around this joint cause and are releasing this Special Funding Opportunity Request for Proposals to invite applicants from Illinois and Colorado to test this new funding process. Our hope is that by intentionally working together, grant investments in community-based projects seeking to work in this subject area can have greater potential for impact by 1) working directly with a solution like NowPow and having them involved in the review and sourcing of projects to invest in at the community level, 2) investing in projects from different kinds of communities and community teams to test this type of grant support, and 3) the results can be followed in a cohort, serial learning style with impacts and learnings aggregated across projects all using similar solutions as the basis for their community connecting work. This initiative will start in Illinois and Colorado only, but will evaluate if and how to advance to additional TCI supported states upon initial success.

PROJECT GOALS

Our goal for this collaboration is to move beyond the collection of SDOH needs data and drive actionable interventions, measure outcomes, and stand up a successful partnership between the health care and community provider sectors. This will be successful if we can help resource efforts in this space and learn together about what works best in advancing this type of community-connecting work. We collectively envision TCI philanthropic support to helping an applicant resource initial year start-up costs of engaging NowPow as a community referral management system.

PURPOSE OF THE RFP

The applications for this funding will be solicited and accepted from Colorado and Illinois-based projects on an open, rolling application deadline until funding is exhausted. We are anticipating the ability to fund six (6) to eight (8) overall projects in this special funding opportunity in the award range between $50,000 and $75,000.

You will notice in the application process that there is nothing expected from you regarding the development of a requested budget. TCI and NowPow are wanting the process to focus on strategic fit for how to utilize the potential of the NowPow platform as a referral management system. TCI's intent is the anticipated funding level between $50,000 and $75,000 per awardee/grantee will be sufficient to largely resource full set up and first year subscription costs with NowPow. This is intended to help resource your launch of efforts to make SDOH information more actionable for your clients/patients. NowPow will lead the project scoping and determination of the optimal grant size from TCI to your organization based on your information, their consultative support, and responses to this application process. The ongoing costs (after the initial grant support year) would be variable and dependent on individual project circumstances. NowPow will help you scope what anticipated future/ongoing costs might look like based on consultation with you for how to optimize the work with NowPow's platform in future years. The TCI grant support is intended to be for the first, highest cost experience with NowPow in the first year of your engagement.

The application process will open on March 1, 2021, and applications can be completed at any time after launch. We will close the funding review process once the available philanthropic pool of dollars has been fully awarded/obligated by winning community-based projects/proposal teams.

Examples of how to approach this special funding
The unique collaboration between TCI and NowPow symbolizes the joint effort of two organizations that try to function at the intersections of health, medicine, technology, business, and innovation to foster community-driven, socially conscious impact. We have created an introductory video regarding the NowPow platform and its community connecting capabilities that can be viewed **here**.

Please view the video to see other various ways organizations around the country are using this tool. Efforts will be made to resource a variety of project types, organizational leads, as well as achieve a good mix of major urban and rural representation within those projects selected for implementation.

APPLICATION

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

To begin, Download the application to your computer by using your browser download button.

Before beginning the application, review the above guidelines and requirements in the **Special Funding Opportunity Request for Proposals**.

This application is an Adobe PDF fillable form. To best complete this application, download the application to your computer and use Adobe Acrobat to fill it out electronically. The latest version of Adobe Acrobat can be downloaded for free **here**. You can save your file on your computer and work on it as needed before submitting. The application provided must be used. Please do not recreate the application or submit it as a scanned file. Completed applications must be emailed to **mmcgarvey@telligenci.org**. There is no set deadline, and your application can be submitted any time after the Special Funding Opportunity is released (March 1, 2021). Proposals will be reviewed and entertained by TCI and NowPow reviewers. TCI will determine the finalist and grantees, with the support of NowPow providing guidance in the evaluation. The proposals and awards will continue a rolling basis if and until all available funding is awarded. It is anticipated all awards will be made by the end of the third quarter of 2021.

If you have questions about the grant process or need assistance with the application, contact:

Matt McGarvey of TCI
mmcgarvey@telligenci.org
515/554-2908

RFP RESPONSE SCREENING CRITERIA

The scoring rubric that will be jointly utilized by TCI and NowPow reviewers will be available for reference during your planning and grant writing process at **TCI's website**.

❶ APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please provide the following information about your organization.

Applicant Organization Profile	
Nonprofit Organization Name	
Mailing Address	
Website	
Type of Organization: 501(c)(3)	
Government Entity Organization's 9-digit Tax ID no.	

❷ CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide a primary contact person who will be the point person throughout the RFP evaluation process.

Primary Contact	
Name	
Organization	
Title	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

❸ PROJECT INFORMATION

Please provide the following information about your proposed program for the project.

Project Profile	
Program Name	
Lead Organization	
Geographic Scope (City, County, State)	
Project website	
Project term (start date – end date)	

The remaining questions have response boxes that expand as you enter your answer. There are no word or character count limits, so you can write all you need to address the question(s) fully and comprehensively to tell your story.

❹ INTERVENTION DESIGN

The following questions are designed to better understand workflows and evaluation methods of the program. The questions in this section are pertaining to the point of access, methods of assessment, and ongoing case management.

What are the specific community needs you hope this intervention will address and how did you identify them/come to this conclusion?

To what level are you wanting to address the need (are you trying to drive awareness of resources (resource directory) or ensure connection to resources services (closed loop referrals))?

How will the needs be identified (including, but not limited to: screening tools or predictive analytics)?

If a screener will be used please answer the following questions, otherwise mark N/A.

Is there an existing screener used to identify needs?	Yes	No

How is the screener administered? (i.e., on paper, via app, through an Electronic Health Record or Case Management system etc.)

How does your organization currently manage individual data of the population you serve (including, but not limited to: electronic health records or case management system)?

❺ PROJECT SCOPE AND CAPACITY

The following questions are designed to better understand your scope for this project, the specific population/geographic area you serve, and types of services provided.

Describe the specific population and demographics you wish to serve with the program/intervention.

Describe the specific services your organization provides (or will provide via NowPow usage) to address the needs of your target population.

Describe the titles and roles of the team members who will staff this project (i.e., social worker, case manager, navigator etc.). If possible, provide the number of individuals in each of the roles described.

Are there multiple locations where services will be provided (system wide or a single location)?

Does your organization have existing partnerships with community-based organizations for the purpose of providing services to your clients served? If not, has your organization considered partnership with other community providers to address gaps in services needed by your clients?

❻ OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

The following questions are designed to better understand your vision for this project. The questions in this section are pertaining to program impact, goals, and objectives relating to the proposed intervention as well as the evaluation metrics used to measure them.

Provide an overview of your organization's mission and how it aligns with the prospective intervention.

What are the overall goals/objectives of the project, the specific metrics that will be used to achieve them, and the evaluation strategies used to measure their effectiveness?

Describe what a successful outcome looks like for an individual being served by the proposed intervention?

❼ SUSTAINABILITY

The following question is designed to better understand sustainability and long-term impact of your program. The question in this section is pertaining to sustainability and future work.

How will the project continue to provide value to the community over time? How will you ensure the project is sustainable?

YOU ARE FINISHED!

Save your application and then email it to **mmcgarvey@telligenci.org**

You should receive an email from TCI within 24 hours confirming receipt.
If you do not, please contact staff at 515-554-2908.