

Request for Proposals

Disability Inclusion and Justice in Oral Health

Background

At CareQuest Institute for Oral Health®, we work together to create a system that is accessible, equitable, and integrated by bringing forth ideas and solutions.

We do this through our work in grantmaking, research, health improvement programs, policy and advocacy, and education, as well as our leadership in dental benefits and innovation advancements. But we don't do it alone. Collaboration and partnership are key to achieving our mission — to improve the oral health of all.

Our grantmaking team has a history of partnering with grassroots and community-based organizations that represent and/or engage those most directly impacted by oral health inequities. These populations include racial and ethnic minorities, rural communities, and older adults. Since our Grassroots Engagement Initiative in 2015–2020, we've continued to elevate new partner voices to reshape, disrupt, and transform our oral health system. Taking what we've learned, we are seeking new voices representing historically marginalized communities to advance oral health.

Purpose

As part of CareQuest Institute's philanthropic strategy, we are actively seeking grantmaking opportunities that strengthen communities and improve the overall system to create better oral health for all. Through the Disability Inclusion and Justice in Oral Health Request for Proposals (RFP), CareQuest Institute is seeking to fund projects and partner with organizations that are **working to address systemic barriers to oral health — including access to oral health — for people with disabilities.**

CareQuest Institute's [Family Affair: A Snapshot of Oral Health Disparities and Challenges in Individuals in Households Experiencing Disability](#) reports that individuals with a disability have higher prevalence and severity of oral disease in comparison with the general population. Individuals in households experiencing disabilities:

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **July 10**
Request for Proposals Open
- **August 31**
Deadline for Proposal Submission
([via Fluxx](#))
- **Late-October**
Awardee Notification

Contact

Office Hours

July 19, August 2, August 16,
12p.m. – 1p.m. ET

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83005235747?pwd=Q2R0VXBjUDhLUWNuVFhlbS96L0xwZz09>

By Phone: 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 830 0523 5747

Passcode: 378301

Phone

857-295-0203

Please leave a voicemail. Calls will be returned within two business days.

Email

grants@carequest.org

Subject line: "Disability Inclusion and Justice in Oral Health RFP"

- visit the dentist less frequently — 32.6% had not visited a dentist in two or more years compared to 19.7% in households not experiencing disability
- are more frequently denied health care or oral health care due to discrimination — more than half (52.8%) compared to 36.9% in households not experiencing disability
- are twice as likely to experience high dental anxiety (21.8%) compared to households not experiencing disability (10.6%)
- visit the ED for dental care or pain three times more often (9.0%) compared to households not experiencing disability (3.1%)

According to the National Council on Disability's April 2023 report *Incentivizing Oral Healthcare Providers to Treat Patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, oral health outcomes like these are a result of several systemic barriers: "(1) the insufficient number of [oral health care] providers rendering care . . . (2) the lack of government policies that support dental benefits . . . and (3) the insufficient funding to support essential [oral health care] services" for people with disabilities. CareQuest Institute also recognizes that there may be other systemic barriers to oral health care for people with disabilities that vary by location, type of disability, etc.

The report demonstrates that while more attention is being paid to the intersections of disability and oral health care, further efforts across sectors are necessary to address the oral health inequity for people with disabilities. Unmet oral health needs can not only negatively influence an individual's overall health but also their quality of life.

CareQuest Institute's philanthropic approach is centered on the belief that oral health care solutions are not as effective without the individuals and communities that have been most negatively impacted by oral health disparities driving their design, development, and implementation. That said, CareQuest Institute prioritizes proposals that reflect the applicant's authentic commitment to meaningfully and consistently engaging members of the disability community throughout their proposed project. This definition of engagement goes beyond treatment to nurture environments ripe for community empowerment and justice. Ultimately, compelling and aligned projects should be driven by, or at least executed in collaboration with, individuals and/or organization partners representative of rather than "on behalf of" people with disabilities.

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What could this look like?

- a national organization developing a disability-focused oral health policy agenda in collaboration with disability self-advocates and disability-focused partners
- a state-based organization hosting community listening sessions and advocacy trainings to strengthen the capacity for self- and policy advocacy among community members and advance oral health advocacy toward expanding access to care within a state's Medicaid program
- a clinical organization piloting innovative clinical, workforce, and workflow solutions to inform and/or validate creative payment models that support oral health care for people with disabilities
- much more

Eligibility

Applicants must be based and operating in the United States or its territories and may be either a public entity or nonprofit organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

Selection Criteria

The Disability Inclusion and Justice in Oral Health Request for Proposals seeks to fund creative, innovative projects that drive systemic change in oral health that promotes access to care for people with disabilities. The parameters for selection of proposals are intentionally broad, recognizing that innovative work aligned with this strategy may employ a variety of tactics and partnerships, and that systemic barriers may vary depending on geographic region of focus. Still, organizations with proposals that are aligned with CareQuest Institute's philanthropic and strategic approaches, as mentioned above, will be prioritized.

CareQuest Institute will also prioritize work that:

- a demonstrated understanding or willingness to learn demonstrates the use of a health and racial equity approach
- intentionally engages communities in the design and implementation of the work, with a particular focus on historically marginalized populations
- strengthens capacity and infrastructure through partnerships and collaboration
- seeks to advance local, state, or federal policy or systems change

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries; subgrants to project partners/community organizations that clearly align with the mission, goals, and budget of the proposal; consultant fees; data collection and analysis; meetings; supplies; activities related to fundraising and development; project-related travel; and other direct project expenses.

Grant funds, including subgrants, **may not** be used for direct services (e.g., restorations, screenings, dental supplies, lost revenue, etc.), capital expenditures, lobbying, endowments, or scholarships, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.:

Proposals will be reviewed, and grantees selected, based on the following criteria:

- a demonstrated commitment to, or willingness to deepen, engagement of people with disabilities and community organizations representing people with disabilities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of organizational work
- clear identification of the systemic barrier(s) to oral health care for people with disabilities that the proposed work will address (organization-wide systems, local systems/policy, state-based systems/policy, national systems/federal policy)
- clarity and practicality of the proposed activities, including intended/anticipated outcomes and impact on people with disabilities, as well as the broader oral health system
- experience in effective data collection and analysis as well as project reporting/communications
- willingness to seek and engage other funders in supporting and/or sustaining this work
- willingness to partner with existing networks (such as the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network, other CareQuest Institute grantees, etc.) to spread project learnings, opportunities for engagement, and thought leadership to strengthen oral health for people with disabilities across the broader oral health field



Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a dedicated grant amount for proposed projects?

CareQuest Institute will fund 10 projects at \$125,000 each through the Disability Inclusion and Justice in Oral Health Request for Proposals.

How long is the funding period for grants through this RFP?

At this time, CareQuest Institute is able to provide one year of funding to accepted applicants. Following satisfactory completion of this one-year grant period, organizations funded through this RFP may apply for future CareQuest Institute grant opportunities.

Are organizations that have not previously received funding from CareQuest Institute eligible to apply?

Yes. CareQuest Institute welcomes new prospective partners to apply through this RFP.

Are organizations that have previously received grant funding from CareQuest Institute eligible to apply?

Yes. CareQuest Institute is interested in deepening relationships with existing partners through this RFP.

Are organizations that are in an active grant period with CareQuest Institute eligible to apply?

Organizations may not have two concurrent grants from CareQuest Institute. However, existing grantees may apply through funding within this RFP if the intended grant “start date” is equal to or following the “end date” of the current grant from CareQuest Institute.

Is there a geographic focus or scope for this RFP?

CareQuest Institute is open to applications focused on national, state, and local contexts. However, there is particular interest in projects serving geographic areas and/or specific demographic populations that have been historically underserved.

How does CareQuest Institute define “disability” as it relates to this RFP?

Institute recognizes that the definition of “disability” can vary widely across organizational platforms. Within this RFP, CareQuest Institute approaches review of proposals in alignment with the general framework described here by the [Disability & Philanthropy Forum](#). If you are unsure about the eligibility of your project due to concerns about population served, please contact grants@carequest.org.

How does CareQuest Institute define community engagement as it relates to this RFP?

CareQuest Institute, in partnership with Community Science, has developed a robust measurement framework for community engagement within oral health systems-change work. The [Continuum of Community Engagement](#) provides detailed examples of community engagement on a progressive scale. CareQuest Institute’s intent is to encourage progression along the continuum within funded projects and within the field of oral health overall.

What support beyond funding is provided by CareQuest Institute?

Organizations funded within this initiative will have access to, and ongoing communication with, a network of community-driven partners doing similar work through a facilitated learning community. These partners will also have opportunities to collaborate on earned-media strategies and promotion of work via CareQuest Institute dissemination channels, including newsletters and social media. CareQuest Institute’s philanthropy staff will provide technical assistance to build organizational and project capacity. Lastly, partners will have opportunities to learn from CareQuest Institute and other subject-matter experts around topics such as evaluation and value-based care.

Who can I contact with further questions?

For questions not answered above, please send your inquiries to the Philanthropy team at CareQuest Institute: grants@carequest.org. A member of our team will reach out to provide you with additional assistance.

Individuals within the disability community are diverse in their preferences for disability-first versus person-first language; this document uses person-first language.

Please contact CareQuest Institute at grants@carequest.org or 857-295-0203 if you require accessibility accommodations related to applying through this RFP.

This may include:

- *alternative methods of proposal submission*
- *alternative methods of communication with the CareQuest Institute Grants Team*
- *other*

2023 CareQuest Institute for Oral Health Disability Inclusion and Justice in Oral Health Proposal Form

We understand that many organizations and their staff members may want to approach this Request for Proposals collaboratively. With that in mind, the Philanthropy team at CareQuest Institute for Oral Health prepared this document, which includes all the questions that are on the official proposal form in [Fluxx](#), to assist you/your organization as you prepare your final submission. **Please note that only proposals submitted through [Fluxx](#) by August 31, 2023, will be eligible for review.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact grants@carequest.org.

- 1. Please provide a description of the proposed project's desired outcomes, priority activities or tactics, and specific final deliverables that you are anticipating through this work.**
- 2. What systemic oral health inequities will this project aim to address in your specific environment (region, state, or community of focus)?**
 - How did your organization identify the issues you aim to address?
 - In what ways have disability community members or partners contributed to or validated the need for the solutions proposed in this project?
 - How will this work apply to a larger systems-change strategy that intentionally engages and amplifies the voices of disability community members?
 - How will your organization engage in advocacy and policy change to sustain the impact of your proposed project?
- 3. Partnerships between applicant organizations and members of the disability community are critical to an aligned project.** Please note that CareQuest Institute approaches the definition of "disability" in alignment with the general framework described by the [Disability Philanthropy Forum](#).
 - How might your work intersect and address oral health inequities facing BIPOC, rural, low-income and other communities?
 - How will your organization engage, collaborate, and co-lead with these stakeholder groups to execute the proposed project?
- 4. Please describe your organization's history and capacity to support oral health systems-change and disability justice and inclusion work.**
- 5. What does "success" look like at the end of the grant period and how will your project's stakeholders inform and evaluate that definition?**
 - How will you measure and track progress over the course of the grant period?
 - Please include specific milestones throughout the course of the project.?
- 6. What tools, resources, or reports will you create or utilize to spread learnings or best practices obtained through this grant.**
- 7. Sustainability: CareQuest Institute is able to provide one year of funding to accepted applicants. Following satisfactory completion of this one-year grant period, organizations funded through this RFP may apply for future CareQuest Institute grant opportunities. That said, in order to promote sustainability of project work, it is recommended that applicants secure and/or create fund development plans for additional support, funding or in-kind, outside of CareQuest Institute funds.**
 - Briefly describe your plan to identify and secure additional funding/matching resources (including in-kind support) to support.