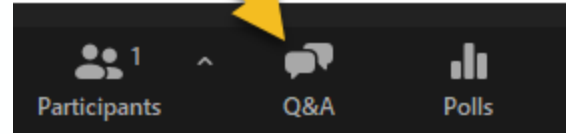




Equitable Access In the Child Nutrition Programs Subgrant Opportunity Webinar

Tech Housekeeping



Question and Answer: Open the Q&A window and type your question and press send. The host and panelists will either reply back to your message via text in the Q&A box or answer live.



Closed captioning is available by clicking the CC button on your screen.



Today's webinar will be **recorded** and the slides shared after the event.

Welcome from the EA-CN Project Team

- **Co-Principal Investigators**

- Crystal FitzSimons, MSW, Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs
- Geri Henchy, MPH, RD, Director of Nutrition Policy and Early Childhood Programs

- **Project Manager**

- Clarissa Hayes, Deputy Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs

- **Research Lead**

- Allison Lacko, PhD, Research Scientist

- **Project Grants and Development Support**

- Eli Yussuf, MPA, Grants Manager
- Polly Thibodeau, Deputy Director, Development

Agenda for Today's Webinar



**EA-CN
Project
Overview**



**Project
Design**



**Technical
Assistance**



**Application
Submission
and
Selection**



Next Steps



**Questions
and Answers**

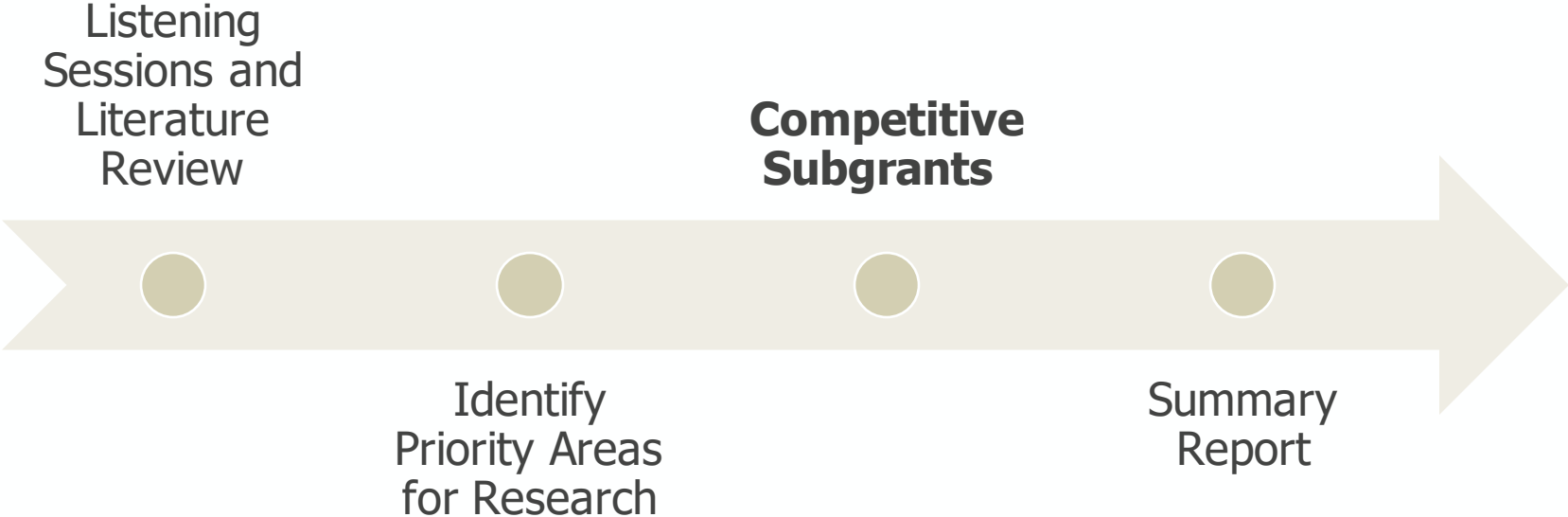
Overview of the EA-CN Project

Purpose

The purpose of the EA-CN project is to support research activities that increase the understanding of and ability to improve **equity in access** to the Child Nutrition Programs, including program participation and receipt of high-quality foods and services.



Overview of Project



Subgrant Eligibility

Eligible EA-CN project applicants include the following:

- public or private academic organizations;
- not-for-profit organizations; and
- state or local government organizations

An organization must apply as a singular applicant. Other organizations that are partnering in the project should be listed as contractors and their role explained in the application and budget narrative. Community partners who are compensated for their time are included in this category.

Key Funding & Dates

| DATE | EVENT |
|---------------------|---|
| September 9, 2023 | * Letter of Intent due by 11:59 p.m. ET |
| October 3, 2023 | Proposals due by <u>11:59 p.m. ET</u> |
| Early November 2023 | Grantees notified of award |
| November 6, 2023 | Project start date |
| Mid November 2023 | Kick-off meeting |
| November 6, 2025 | Project end date |

- **Minimum request amount:** \$100,000
- **Maximum request amount:** \$250,000
- **Subgrant length and dates:** 24 months, November 6, 2023–November 6, 2025

Allowable Costs

Examples of allowable program expenses include, but are not limited to:

- salary (personnel, contractors) and fringe benefits
- incentives for participation of community partners and/or Child Nutrition Program sponsors and operators
- software

Budgets may *not* include:

- reimbursement for pre-award costs
- lobbying or advocacy

EA-CN Project Design

Project Design

Project and Equity Assessment

Applicants will be asked to identify:

- The group experiencing disparities in the Child Nutrition Programs you will be focusing on
- The barriers that disproportionately reduce access for this group
- The strengths and resources that could be leveraged in the proposed project
- The applicant's experience working with the Child Nutrition Programs or other nutrition assistance efforts

Project Design

Community-Engaged Research

Context that Impacts Engagement:

- Trust
- History
- Relationship building
- Transparency
- Respect

Indicators of an Equitable Partnership:

- Power / control
- Decision-making
- Responsibility
- Resource-sharing
- Influence
- Ownership
- Mutual benefit

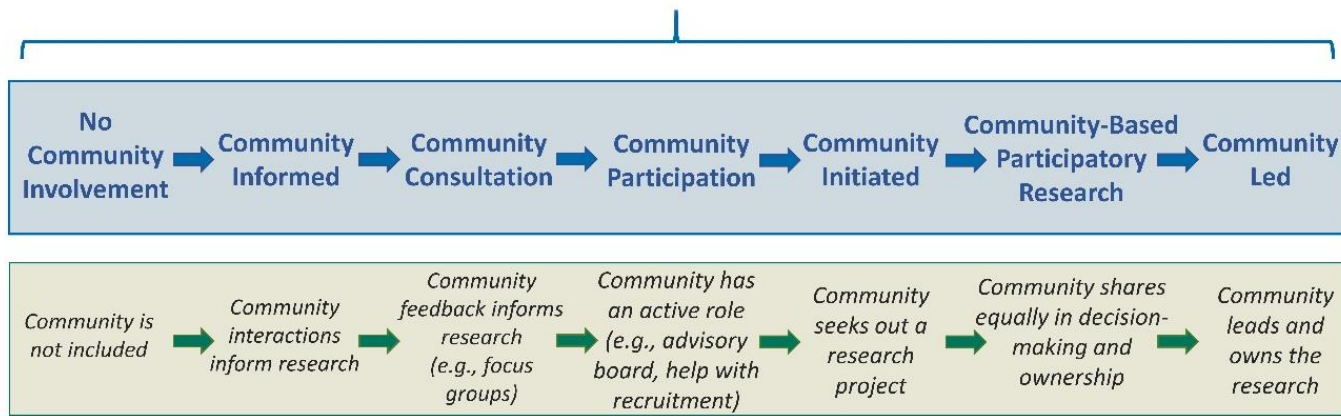


Figure adapted from Key, et al (2019). The Continuum of Community Engagement in Research: A Roadmap for Understanding and Assessing Progress. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. Vol 13, pp 427-434

Project Design

Community-Engaged Research

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Indicators of an Equitable Partnership:

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Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that fall anywhere along the continuum of community-engaged research.



Figure adapted from Key, et al (2019). The Continuum of Community Engagement in Research: A Roadmap for Understanding and Assessing Progress. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. Vol 13, pp 427-434

Project Design

Community-Engaged Research

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In your application, describe

(1) Where your project falls on this continuum

(2) Plan to engage stakeholders at various stages of your project

Figure adapted from Key, et al (2019). The Continuum of Community Engagement in Research: A Roadmap for Understanding and Assessing Progress. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. Vol 13, pp 427-434

Project Design

Priority Research Areas

Priority research topics are organized into three categories:

1

Understanding disparities that exist in the Child Nutrition Programs

2

Understanding the barriers that lead to these disparities

3

Understanding the tools, resources, and interventions that reduce/eliminate these disparities

Project Design: Subgrant Project Plan

Research Aim(s)

For this proposal, one to two research aims are suggested.

Research aims should reflect the research question the project is trying to answer, yield actionable results, and be specific about the child nutrition program and disparity to be studied.

Study Population and Setting

Describe the population you intend to study and/or the setting in which your study will take place.

Project Design: Subgrant Project Plan

Research Strategies and Measures

Describe the outcomes that will be studied or the type of result. The strategies for generating those outcomes should be described in detail.

Data Analysis

Describe the analytical approach to be used in the proposed project.

Dissemination of Findings

Describe how findings will be shared to the population(s) studied and to other stakeholders

Application Submission and Selection

Application Submission: Checklist

- Answers to all the proposal questions (available through the proposal portal at https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/frac_eacn)
- Workplan (template provided in the application portal)
- Budget and budget narrative (template provided in the application portal)
- Financial Management Systems Questionnaire (template provided in the application portal)
- Two-page maximum resume or biosketch for each key project staff member (a maximum of five)
- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from a federal agency, if applicable
- Applicant's most recent audited financial statements (If not available, please explain)
- Applicant's most recent IRS Form 990, if applicable (This is required for nonprofit organizations but is not applicable to public agencies.)
- Unique Entity Identifier number from SAM.gov

Application Selection: Review Process

- 1. Screening process:** Project Team staff will confirm an applicant organization's eligibility.
 - Disqualifications may occur due to one of two reasons: (1) failure to prove eligible entity status or (2) failure to submit by the application deadline.
- 2. Application Scoring:** Project Team staff and select external reviewers will independently score proposals using the Selection Criteria. Scores will be averaged and discussed.
- 3. FNS Final Selection:** FNS will review the recommendations from the reviewers and approve final subgrantee award decisions.
 - FNS reserves the right to accept the review panel's recommendations or to select an application for funding out of order to meet agency priorities, program balance, geographical representation, project diversity, and variety of applicant organizations.

A note on debriefing: Upon request, the Project Team will provide a brief written response of proposals that are not accepted for funding.

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance to Applicants

Any questions related to the proposal process can also be directed to the EA-CN Project Manager at EACN@frac.org.

To ensure that all technical assistance provided to applicants is uniformly available to all, the questions received will be collected, summarized, and answered in a regularly updated FAQ list on the EA-CN webpage.

Technical Assistance to Subgrantees

| Activity | Description |
|--|---|
| Kick-Off Orientation, Midpoint, and Closeout Meetings | A whole-group kickoff meeting with subgrantees will occur within 30 days after awards are announced. Midpoint and closeout meetings will also be scheduled during the project. |
| Peer Learning Community of Practice | An online portal will be accessible only to subgrantees and include forums where subgrantees can regularly share project updates, document lessons learned, and describe challenges or ask questions for peer and Project Team input. |
| Webinars | Regular training will be held on topics applicable across subgrantee projects. Subgrantees will be invited to participate and share their own experiences. These will be recorded and available through the Community of Practice. |

Throughout the project, a subset of FRAC's Project Team will be assigned to each subgrantee, covering technical expertise in the relevant child nutrition program and in research.

Next Steps

Next Steps & Key Dates

- **Next Steps:**

- Direct questions to eacn@frac.org
- Create an account through the online submission portal for the Equitable Access in Child Nutrition Programs Project (https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/frac_eacn)

- **Key Dates:**

- Optional Letter of Intent due September 9, 2023
- Applications due October 3, 2023

EA-CN Webpage

The [Equitable Access in Child Nutrition Programs](#) (EA-CN) Project Team is pleased to make up to \$1.1 million in funding available through a Subgrant Request for Proposals (RFP). Individual subgrant awards will range from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

The purpose of the EA-CN Subgrant RFP is to support research activities that identify barriers to equitable access in the Child Nutrition Programs, as well as strategies to help overcome these barriers.

Access the RFP [here](#) and apply online [here](#).

We strongly recommend submitting a [Letter of Intent](#) before starting the application process.

The deadline for proposals is October 3, 2023.

Informational Webinar

The EA-CN Project Team will host a webinar for interested applicants to provide additional details about the subgrant opportunity. The recording will be posted on this page.

| Event | Date & Time | Registration | Recording | Slide Deck |
|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Webinar: Overview of the EA-CN Subgrant | Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 3:00 – 4:00 | Register Here | Coming Soon | Coming Soon |

- Project updates
- Webinar recording
- Link to RFP and application portal

<https://frac.org/equitableaccesscn/rfp>

Questions & Answers

Please post your question in the Q&A section.

Questions will be answered by Project Team members.

All questions submitted during the webinar will be included in the Frequently Asked Question document on the [EA-CN webpage](#).

Thank You!