

2023-2024 Vitalyst Systems Change Grants FAQ

Updated 8/15/23

General Information

- Si necesita ayuda en Español, mándenos un correo a conversemos@vitalysthealth.org.
- Recording: <https://youtu.be/eW53q19RpXA>
- WizeHive (online submission portal): if you have any questions, please email Grants@VitalystHealth.org.
- The “Specific Points” provided on each slide of the information session slide deck are the guiding questions Vitalyst uses to review Letters of Intent (LOIs).
- Resources to clarify what is meant by “systems change”:
<http://vitalysthealth.org/grants/systemschange-grants/>
- “Six Conditions of Systems Change”:
https://www.fsg.org/resource/water_of_systems_change/
- Vitalyst “Spark Podcast” with Systems Change Grant examples:
<http://vitalysthealth.org/podcast/>
- “Elements of a Healthy Community”: <http://vitalysthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/EOHC-Handout-Jan2018.pdf>
- “Elements of a Healthy Tribal Community”: <http://vitalysthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/TribalComm-FULL.pdf>
- To schedule a conversation, complete the Discovery process at <http://vitalysthealth.org/partnering-with-vitalyst/> & select interest in the “Systems Change Grant”
- LOIs are to be submitted by Fri., 10/6 at 5pm (MST-AZ) at <https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/vitalyst-systemschange>
- Online Application Process – How to Guide: <http://vitalysthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/How-to-Submit-a-LOI-Guide-092022.pdf>
- General questions: Grants@VitalystHealth.org

Q: What kind of experience are you looking for from the lead applicant?

A: The lead applicant and partners should have experience to propose a systems change for the identified population. The people most impacted by the health outcome/disparity should be at the decision-making table and community-centered perspectives must be engaged to identify the proposed systems change. Applicants can clarify how they have experience in these areas, and Vitalyst may turn to internal or external subject-matters experts to better assess.

Q: Should a nonprofit that has contracts with a state agency or an effort be the lead applicant, or should the state?

A: The lead applicant must be an Arizona-based nonprofit serving Arizonans, though fiscally sponsored and government entities may apply as well. Who the lead applicant is depends on the wishes of the collaborative, although Vitalyst assesses the collaborative’s network against the noted criteria and often views community leads more favorably.

Q: How many Systems Change Grants are available to potentially be awarded? I’m hoping to get an idea of how much competition there is for the grants available.

A: There is funding for up to four (4) total awards in FY23-24, each up to \$175,000. In previous years, we have seen as many as 100 Letters of Intent (LOIs) submitted for consideration.

Q: Does the \$175K need to be equally distributed over the 3 years (\$58k/yr.) or can it vary by year (yr1: \$50K, yr2: \$100k, yr3: \$25K)?

A: The total grant amount does not need to be equally distributed over the three-year grant period. It can vary by year and should be consistent with the scope of work proposed. Vitalyst recognizes change happens in systems change efforts, so remains flexible with any changes to the budget during the grant period.

Q: Can you provide more clarity on lobbying expenses possibly being allowed?

A: Lobbying expenses might be allowed, contingent on Vitalyst's review. That review mostly is to ensure adherence to lobbying laws and regulations. Systems change often involves direct and/or grassroots lobbying and nonprofits can legally lobby. Vitalyst reviews adherence to such limits, especially because Vitalyst must track lobbying expenses supported by the Systems Change Grants.

Q: Is there an expectation for matching funds, or will the award fully fund the project over the three years?

A: Matching funds are not a requirement for the Vitalyst Systems Change Grant, though we know that systems change is a heavy lift and may require more than the total funding this grant provides. There is an opportunity in the budget template to indicate any matching funds that have been secured for the project. Coalitions have used Vitalyst money to leverage other funding, but it is not required.

Q: Do statewide initiatives receive preference over regionally focused initiatives?

A: Vitalyst gives no preference for statewide versus regionally focused initiatives. The intended health outcomes are framed in health disparities language and the populations for the systems change. The proposed systems change should hold a health equity lens and impact those communities being served by the project.

Q: Since there is a large number going for the award and only four (4) awards, will Vitalyst connect entities that are going for the same system change if they opt in?

A: Vitalyst does encourage similar efforts submitting separate proposals to collaborate as much as possible. Vitalyst is happy to connect partners in similar efforts, and also promoted the Arizona Together for Impact Fund (<https://azimpact.org/>) which supports nonprofit collaborations. If more than one submission is received towards similar systems change, we will encourage collaboration, but if it is determined by the partners to apply separately, Vitalyst reviews each based on the criteria outlined.

Q: Can a for-profit collaborate with a nonprofit that is founded by the same person?

A: The lead applicant must be an Arizona-based nonprofit serving Arizonans. A for-profit can collaborate with a nonprofit that is founded by the same person. Efforts should have 2+ community partners that are clearly identified and the characteristics of the partners reflected in the LOI. Vitalyst assesses the quality of the collaborative over the number of partners, and proposals are more favorably reviewed when they engage the people most impacted by the health outcome/disparity at the decision-making table.