Data Across
Sectors for Health

Frequently Asked Questions for the DASH Mentor Program

GENERAL

Q: Will there be another round of Mentor opportunities in 2019? If so, will the same organizations act as Mentors?

A: A second round next year is likely, pending internal evaluation of the program's outcomes. In the event of another round, DASH would launch an invitation for applications for a new set of Mentors.

Q: Why is membership in *All In: Data for Community Health* part of the selection criteria?

A: An organization or collaboration does not have to join *All In* in order to apply to be a Mentee, but will join the online community as a condition of acceptance. The DASH Mentors will use the online community as a home for sharing materials and coordinating activities, which will leverage the important lessons and content for the larger *All In* community.

Applicants are encouraged to join the online community at any time to explore the resources available and participate in the larger peer learning network regardless of receiving an award from DASH or other *All In* partner community. Participating in *All In* is a great way to understand the kinds of communities that are already participating in the network, and also allows applicants to begin to familiarize themselves with the network resources.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: I have applied for or received funding from DASH in the past. Am I eligible for this opportunity?

A: Yes, although priority will be given to new applicants.

Q: I'm a founder/employee for a private foundation with a business license (LLC), but not part of a public entity or a non-profit 501(c)(3). Will I be eligible to apply for the program?

A: Unfortunately, private foundations are not eligible to receive DASH funding. We encourage you to join the online community and participate in the peer learning community. There may be other Program partners in *All In* with funding opportunities that do not face the same constraint.

Q: I work for local government (Public Health) and we are not a 501(c)(3) organization - are we able to apply?

A: Local governmental public health departments are eligible organizations for the DASH Mentor program.

Q: Is an organization with a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)(3) still eligible? Would we qualify if we are able to obtain a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with a Community Partner?

A: Local government and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the DASH Mentor Program. We will accept applications made through a fiscal agent, if the application meets the other eligibility criteria.

Q: Is this just for CDC 1815 or 1817 cooperative agreements?

A: There are no requirements for applicants to be part of any CDC cooperative agreements.

Q: My organization is using [a specific kind of] database/software - will we qualify?

A: Except for the specific opportunity through the Corporation for Supportive Housing, there are no software expectations or requirements for any of the Mentorships.

MY APPLICATION

Q: Where is the PDF version of the application?

A: You may download and review a PDF of the application questions on the DASH Mentor Program page.

Q: What are the word limits for the long response/free-text questions?

A: The character limits for each free-text response are listed in the PDF of the application questions. Response limits range from 1200-2500 characters, or roughly 250-400 words.

Q: Can I apply for both CIC-START and Mentor Program funding?

A: Yes, although you will still need to submit a separate application for each funding opportunity.

Q: Should I answer the supplemental questions for all of the Mentors?

A: The application form will only ask you to answer supplemental questions for your first-choice and second-choice Mentors. It will not be necessary to answer all of the Mentors' questions.

Q: Is it possible for another organizational member of our partnership to apply separately?

A: Yes, as long as the other organization and the collaborative project meet the Mentor Program eligibility criteria.

Q: Would we be able to include multiple organizations in our application group?

A: Mentees will designate a primary contact for participation in the program and are encouraged to consider inviting other team members such as colleagues or collaborative partners to participate in learning collaborative activities. At minimum, it is expected that Mentees will share learnings from the experience or facilitate activities with their colleagues and/or collaborative partners.

Q: What would be the ideal make-up/expertise of the team from a Mentee group?

A: The ideal team would bring one to two people from multiple different organizations in the community that are trying to collaborate with each other to tackle a specific issue. Representation from multiple partners would make the learning experience much more effective.

ABOUT THE MENTORS

Q: Will we be able to email Mentors to ask specific questions about our project?

A: If your inquiry is in relation to your application and Mentorship fit, please direct all questions to Kyu.Kang@iphionline.org rather than contact the Mentor directly. The answer to your question will be mailed to you and posted on the FAQ.

If your question is about the relationship between Mentors and Mentees, we expect that Mentees will be in regular contact with their Mentors throughout the program duration to ask questions and receive guidance about their projects.

Q: Which mentorship should I apply for if I am just getting started?

A: The Mentor profiles will help clarify which Mentors may be able to provide guidance and expertise in your specific areas of need. For communities who may be in early stages and are looking for guidance, the University Center for Social and Urban Research may be particularly helpful for understanding local data assets and developing a strategic plan. The Civic Canopy will also guide communities interested in crafting or refining community engagement strategies, selecting and prioritize community health indicators, and overcoming hurdles to data access. Details on your specific activities and learning objectives will help the DASH staff and Mentors to make the best fit for your community.

Q: Which Mentor would be a better fit to guide us through [a specific process]?

A: We do not want to encourage you towards or away from any specific Mentorship, and recommend applicants read each of the Mentor profiles available in the Program Brochure and listen to the webinar recording of the Mentor pitches. If you are unable to see the best possible Mentorship fit, please contact Kyu.Kang@iphionline.org and she may be able to ask you additional questions that will help you decide between the different opportunities.

Q: There is really only one Mentor that fits our project, and I'm struggling to select a second choice. Are we required to select a second choice?

A: We ask that all Mentee applicants submit two choices so that there is a better chance they will be matched with a Mentor. You are not required to select a second choice, though doing so may reduce your chance of being part of a Mentorship.

If you decide to select a second Mentor, explain what it is that you'd like to accomplish in your project, even if it feels like your answer does not quite answer the Mentor-specific questions. Our Mentors have more expertise than they were able to showcase in our short webinar. They are quite versatile, and because we know them well, we may see ways to match them to your needs that you are not able to see. The Mentors will also be working with one another, so it may be that you get assigned to your second choice Mentor but still can receive advice from your first choice Mentor.

Q: Why aren't there any Mentors who are the sources of data? These groups bring organizations together but none of them are actual civic organizations that do the work.

A: We have purposefully selected Mentors with a wide range of skills related to multi-sector data, which include collecting, analyzing, sharing, and storing data. Some are data stewards, others are conveners, others still are subject-matter experts. We are confident all of our Mentors have the experience and expertise to guide other organizations that are generating, sharing, and using a variety of data.

Q: Are any Mentors using GIS? Can give you examples of any projects?

A: All of our Mentors have experience using GIS. CORE uses GIS for data visualization and has experience using different geographies in analysis. The University of Pittsburgh uses GIS data for tool development. Please give specific descriptions of your anticipated interest in GIS to enable the best Mentor match.

Q: What is meant by "civic data"?

A: Civic data describes the context of our communities. Civic data can include not only data produced by governmental organizations, but also non-profits, civic institutions, and other community-based organizations. Data created by or about individuals is also in scope. Sometimes law or policy requires that certain civic data be open to the public. However, not all civic data is open data. Sometimes that's because of the need to protect privacy or legitimately confidential information. Other times, it's because there aren't enough resources allocated to do the work required to prepare, describe, and publish the data. And, in some cases, civic data is legally 'open' but, because of access procedures and format, not practically 'open'. Source: https://civic-switchboard.gitbook.io/guide/understanding/context-and-concepts/ways-of-thinking-about-data-open-data-civic-data

Q: Have any of the Mentors worked with implementing/monitoring Community Health Improvement Plans with local health departments?

A: Civic Canopy uses public health improvement plans as a point of departure for bringing different stakeholders together for a collaborative plan to make sure key elements and steps are in alignment. CORE also does this work as part of data strategy with the California Accountable Communities of Health. 2-1-1 San Diego uses their local data to inform community health improvement planning in their community, and helps influence future strategy and focus. HIN customizes NQF clinical measures, looking at using clinical data at the community level to produce population measures, to see how populations are performing from a health perspective for planning and resource allocation.

Q: Are any Mentors familiar with the Aunt Bertha platform?

A: Civic Canopy has experience with communities looking to move beyond use of Aunt Bertha. 2-1-1 San Diego is very familiar with referral platforms like Aunt Bertha and integrates data from those platforms into their current Community Information Exchange, leveraging that functionality as a starting point.

FUNDS AND REPORTING

Q: Is the grant for $5,000 total?

A: Yes, this is a contract of $5,000 per Mentee to support participation in the Mentorship activities.

Q: How does the Mentor fit into the funding?

A: Mentors are funded separately for their participation in the Mentorships, and Mentees will not be expected to distribute any funds to their Mentors.

Q: Are there any guidelines for spending of the $5,000 stipend?

A: The funds contracted to Mentees are intended to support staff participation in the learning collaborative activities. Awardees can check with the National Program Office if they'd like to use the funds for additional activities.

Q: Will there be any in-person meetings for Mentors/Mentees? Is travel required to participate?

A: Program activities will primarily be virtual, and Mentor groups will utilize the *All In* online community as the space to share/post resources, continue discussions, and make connections between *All In* members and the cohorts. Funds to support travel may be available from the NPO; more information on this will be forthcoming.

Q: Is the funding intended for use by multiple staff members at a single organization (i.e. may my entire team participate in the program, or is it just meant to be one individual per organization?)

A: Mentee funds will be distributed to the applicant organization, with the understanding that its primary use will be to support staff participation in the Mentorship. Mentees will designate a primary contact for participation in the program and are encouraged to consider inviting other team members such as colleagues or collaborative partners to participate in learning collaborative activities.

Q: Can you speak more to participation and reporting requirements?

A: The DASH Mentor Program grants are intended to be a low-administration award. Mentees will participate in quarterly group webinars with their cohorts, as well as have individual check-ins as a part of their technical assistance relationship with their Mentors. Participants will be encouraged to engage in discussions with their peers and Mentors on the *All In* online community, and will have minimal interaction with the National Program Office. NPO staff will be available for additional consultation if requested.

Upon completion of the grants, awardees will be expected to participate in a final survey/interview in order to discuss the successes and challenges of their participation in the Mentor Program. Each cohort will also participate in a Share & Learn webinar to talk about lessons learned and any products developed as part of the Mentorship.

Q: When and how are funds paid to the participant?

A: DASH will distribute 90% of the award amount when contracts are initiated, paid to the lead agency on the application. Awardees will be responsible for contracting and dispersing funds, in accordance with their proposed work plan. The 10% balance of the award will be provided upon completion of final activities. In the event that your collaboration relies on one organization to be the fiscal agent and another to lead the proposed work plan, please notify NPO staff at the time you receive your award letter.