



Illinois Public Health Association

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The COVID-19 Pandemic Health Navigator Program (PHNP) is an integral part of the State's response to COVID-19 that integrates community health centers, community-based organizations, and our public health partners to coordinate resources for our most vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19. This model creates a well-trained, expanded workforce of pandemic health navigators and community partners that will assist in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and future pandemics, with a coordinated response.

This program has four main objectives:

- Address unmet community needs in coordination with local, regional and state partners
- Provide COVID-19 education and outreach to communities and impacted populations
- Ease the navigation of care resource coordination for regional COVID-impacted residents
- Assist with contact tracing support to the Illinois Contact Tracing Collaborative

The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), in partnership with the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), was awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to serve as the Regional Coordinator for regions 2-9 of the PHNP to ensure coverage for these activities through direct services and/or sub-awarding to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other community-based agencies.

IPHA and IPHCA will sub-contract with FQHCs and community-based agencies in regions 2-9 (refer to Table 1) for COVID-19 education and outreach, to support contact tracing as needed, and to connect cases and contacts with critical services and resources, such as meals, medicine, mobility support, immigration matters, work and income resources, mental health support, support for unsafe living conditions (e.g. domestic abuse), etc., during isolation and quarantine. In addition, the PHNP team will collaborate and coordinate across the assigned regions with the public health system, including with local health departments (LHDs), to support contact tracing efforts and ensure all communities receive needed assistance and to help reduce disparities in health outcomes.

Communities of focus for the PHNP include, but are not limited to:

- Racial and ethnic minorities, including, but not limited to African American/Black, Arab American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native
- Foreign-born individuals
- People with limited English proficiency
- Undocumented immigrants
- People living close to or below the federal poverty line
- Disconnected youth
- People experiencing homelessness
- People who live in rural areas
- People with disabilities (including Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning or Queer people
- Older adults

Criteria for serving as a sub-contractor agency for the PHNP:

- Illinois-based, non-governmental public or private nonprofit organization
- Representative of a community or significant segments of a community
- The ability to provide educational and/or navigation services to individuals in the community
- The ability to receive and fiscally manage grant funds (may utilize a fiscal agent)
- The ability to pay a living wage to Pandemic Health Navigators and offer benefits, including health insurance
- The ability to implement the required documentation platforms, complete required trainings and submit monthly reports
- Must be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, if the Illinois Secretary of State requires the entity's organization type to be registered. Governmental entities, school districts and select religious organizations are not required to be registered with the Illinois Secretary of State. Refer to the Illinois Secretary of State Business Services website: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/businessservices/home.html>
- Not on the Illinois Stop Payment List
- Not on the SAM.gov Exclusion List
- Not on the Sanctioned Party List maintained by HFS
- Must comply with all HIPAA and safety guidelines

Funding levels to serve as a sub-contracted agency for the PHNP will vary, with base funding expected to start at \$30,000. If you are interested in working with IPHA/IPHCA in Regions 2-9 on the PHNP, to serve as a contracted community-based agency providing Pandemic Health Navigators, please submit a Letter of Interest to include the following information:

- Agency name and contact person
- Brief description of agency and mission
- Proposed physical area of coverage
- Description of population you propose to target and/or have access to

The letter should be submitted via email to kroseberry@ipha.com. Letters of interest will be accepted on a rolling basis through January 31, 2021. We will review the letters of interest and agencies will be selected based on capacity, population served and geographic need. A letter of interest does not indicate a commitment to funding. Upon review, IPHA will be in contact with agencies regarding additional details on funding amounts, scope of services, timeline, etc. Participants in the program will be asked to provide input and feedback on the program implementation through surveys and/or interviews as we move forward.

Table 1. PHNP Regions – Illinois Department of Public Health Region	Counties
Region 1	Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago
Region 2	Bureau, Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Livingston, Marshall, McDonough, McLean, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, Woodford, Kendall, Grundy
Region 3	Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Christian, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott
Region 4	Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington
Region 5	Alexander, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White, Williamson
Region 6	Champaign, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Lawrence, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Richland, Shelby, Vermilion
Region 7	Kankakee, Will
Region 8	DuPage, Kane
Region 9	Lake, McHenry