



Request for Technical Assistance Proposals: State-Level Food is Medicine

In 2022, the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI), with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, launched an effort to facilitate nationwide implementation of Food is Medicine (FIM) policy and build capacity for change at the state level. CHLPI is seeking proposals from partners who CHLPI can support in their efforts to build upon CHLPI's expertise in food access and nutrition policy to advance FIM policies in their respective states (e.g., Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration waivers, state-funded pilot programs, etc.).

A [growing body of research](#) suggests that nutrition interventions can help to prevent and treat costly chronic health conditions, improve household food security, and address health disparities. Policymakers and leaders in the U.S. health care and food systems are increasingly working to expand the reach of nutrition interventions through [systems-level change](#). States and institutional partners are eager to leverage these new policies and programs to expand access to nutrition interventions in their communities. However, current policy pathways to sustainably fund nutrition interventions and bring successful programs to scale can be complex and difficult to navigate.

CHLPI is offering pro bono technical assistance (TA) to community organizations, nonprofits, coalitions, and local, state, and tribal government entities across the United States interested in **implementing and scaling state-level FIM policy**. This request for proposals (RFP) application will remain open until July 31, 2023. CHLPI anticipates making two TA awards from this RFP. TA grantees will be notified by August 25, 2023.

About CHLPI

For more than 10 years, CHLPI has advocated for legal, regulatory, and policy reforms in health and food systems, with a focus on the needs of systemically marginalized individuals. CHLPI's broad range of initiatives aim to expand access to high-quality health care and nutritious, affordable food; to reduce health- and food-related disparities; to develop community advocacy capacity; and, to promote more equitable, sustainable, and effective health care and food systems.

Overview of the Project

CHLPI will provide one year of in-depth capacity-building engagement that includes:

- early-stage coalition building,
- nonpartisan research and legal consultation on a variety of FIM policies tailored to the interests of the TA grantee, and
- written policy resources and communications materials for a range of audiences.

CHLPI will help the TA grantee build a solid, community-based foundation for concrete policy change. CHLPI will assist the grantee in a research and discovery process to identify the grantee's and community stakeholders' key state-level Food is Medicine policy goals, opportunities, and barriers. Based on the information gathered and the latest evidence, CHLPI will then identify and research policies and implementation strategies that will best enable the TA grantee to scale FIM and address related issues of health inequity in the state.

Technical Assistance Provided by CHLPI

CHLPI is committed to engaging with TA sites in order to empower and support community-led policy change. CHLPI will offer robust TA engagement that can feature the following activities based on the FIM policy goals, opportunities, and barriers identified by the CHLPI-assisted grantee research and discovery process:

Building Local Capacity

- Build coalitions or enhance the capacity for action of an existing coalition.
- Establish or deepen relationships with key decision-makers and influencers, including state agencies, private employers, health insurers, social service providers, and public health coalitions.
- Help facilitate virtual convenings or small gatherings of key stakeholders.
- Provide broad-based training of TA grantees and their community partners to deepen knowledge and understanding of policy options to scale Food is Medicine services within the location's legal authority.

Soliciting and Researching Local/State Policy Priorities

- Facilitate prioritization among policy options with coalition members, ensuring selected policies have grassroots support and coalition buy-in.
- Research and provide additional support on selected priorities.
- Present strategies for pursuing policy options, based on legal feasibility, and offer available evidence to support TA grantees' potential policy ideas.

Supporting the Design and Implementation of Policy Action

- Research and write memoranda for partner organizations on the relevant legal and policy issues associated with desired policy action.
- Develop outreach materials such as template communications directed to community stakeholders, including private citizens, health plan leaders, and agency officials (e.g. public comment, fact sheets, and leave-behinds).

Eligibility to Apply for Technical Assistance

Any community-based organization, nonprofit, coalition, or local, state, or tribal government entity interested in state-level FIM policy is welcome to apply. CHLPI will select TA sites based on readiness for policy engagement and change regarding FIM policies, feasibility of policy success, potential to impact underserved populations, diversity in location/geography, and diversity of potential policy solutions of interest.

Expectations of Selected Technical Assistance Applicants

CHLPI views its role as an advisor and TA provider, supplementing and supporting the work of community-based organizations and other stakeholders on the project. CHLPI will work with each selected site to determine how best to assist its individual project; however, the TA grantees will lead the initiative, directing the course of policy action. TA grantees will have control over the policies pursued and resources prepared by CHLPI. The specific services provided, to whom, and for how long they will be provided will be based on the information in the applicant's RFP response,

conversations between CHLPI and the TA recipient, and an initial needs-assessment period. These services will then be described in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CHLPI and the TA recipient. If appropriate, TA grantees will work with CHLPI to tailor work plans to respond to evolving site needs.

CHLPI will look to partner agencies to provide on-the-ground expertise about the proposed policy interventions and relevant cultural, political and socio-economic factors that may influence a policy's success. CHLPI will also expect TA grantees to have a demonstrated history or willingness of working with community members to address health inequity and other socio-economic disparities through grassroots engagement. For the partnership to be successful, CHLPI will also ask partner agencies to identify a point of contact who will be in regular contact with CHLPI, help schedule conference calls; review draft materials and provide feedback; and connect CHLPI to other key stakeholders on the project.

The TA recipient shall not reference or otherwise cite direct funding from The Rockefeller Foundation, use The Rockefeller Foundation's logo, or otherwise suggest affiliation with The Rockefeller Foundation.

Timeline

Applications are due on July 31, 2023. CHLPI will contact finalists for a virtual interview and will announce final decisions by August 25, 2023.

RFP for Technical Assistance Application

Please send a copy of the application in PDF format to chlpi@law.harvard.edu with the subject line "State-Level FIM RFP Application." Applications should be typed, single-spaced, and answer all relevant questions. Complete applications should not exceed 3 pages.

Part A: Applicant Information

Provide bullet points with the following information:

- agency or organization name
- agency or organization location (city, county, and state)
- type of applicant (e.g., non-profit, local government, state government)
- applicant primary point of contact, including name, title, agency or organization (must be same as applicant), phone number, and e-mail address

Part B: Applicant Mission and Goals

Provide a summary of your agency's or organization's mission, goals, scope of work, and geographic reach. Please also include 1-2 examples of your organization's previous or current policy initiatives.

Part C: Readiness for Policy Change

Describe your current level of engagement on FIM issues and related policy change. As part of your response, please identify at least 3 community partners with whom you have built a coalition to pursue this change and who will help to champion FIM policies in your community.

Part D: Community Impact

Describe the organization’s history of working with communities that have been disproportionately impacted by health inequities and barriers to healthy food access and how your organization plans to include affected community members in the development and implementation of the project.

Part E: Policy Areas of Interest and Desired Services

Describe the services or kinds of support you would like to receive from CHLPI, using the categories and bullet points on page 2 of this document as a starting point. Describe how these services could address existing needs and barriers. If any specific FIM policies are of interest to the organization and/or there are existing opportunities in the state or community, please let us know. Provide as much detail as possible in one page or less. Please include any desired deadlines or dates of which CHLPI should be aware (e.g., Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration waiver up for extension in spring 2025; goal of launching a Food is Medicine pilot with local health plans by fall 2024; etc.).