

# Grant Healthcare Foundation

## Request for Proposals (RFP)

### Reproductive/Maternal Health Grantee Cohort

Proposal Deadline: Friday, June 13, 2025 by 5:00 PM CST

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## Introduction

Grant Healthcare Foundation (GHF) is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations working to improve reproductive and maternal health outcomes in Chicago. This RFP supports our second issue-area cohort, advancing equity and access in reproductive and maternal health, with a particular emphasis on historically disinvested communities on Chicago's South and West Sides.

GHF is a private foundation committed to eliminating barriers to high-quality healthcare and achieving health equity. Following a recent strategic planning process, GHF is concentrating its investments in two core issue areas: **Youth Mental Health** and **Reproductive/Maternal Health**. We are now inviting Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) from organizations interested in joining our 2026–2028 Reproductive/Maternal Health Grantee Cohort.

## Background & Rationale

Chicago continues to experience deep disparities in reproductive and maternal health, particularly for Black women and birthing people. GHF recognizes the urgency of addressing these inequities, which are rooted in systemic racism, economic disinvestment, and barriers to care. Consider the following:

- Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women in Illinois.
- On Chicago's South Side, Black women are **six times** more likely to die during or after pregnancy compared to their White counterparts.
- Between 2000 and 2020, the Chicago's South Side and South Suburbs lost **over half** of their obstetric units.
- Over half of all pregnancy-related deaths in Illinois occur more than 60 days postpartum, and 91% of these deaths are considered potentially preventable.
- Substance use disorder is the leading cause of pregnancy-related death, followed by cardiac, mental health, chronic conditions, and sepsis.
- Illinois is the top destination in the U.S. for out-of-state abortion care seekers.

These realities underscore the critical need to build systems that are inclusive, equitable, and community-driven.

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## Focus Areas: Grant Healthcare Foundation's Levers for Change

GHF will prioritize organizations making measurable impact in one or more of the following strategic domains:

### 1. Policy and Systemic Advocacy

- Expanding Medicaid access and protections
- Promoting equitable abortion and contraception access

### 2. Workforce Development

- Training, certifying, and integrating Black doulas, midwives, abortion providers, and community health workers

### 3. Service Delivery and Continuum of Care

- Supporting community birth centers
- Strengthening patient navigation services and addressing social determinants of health (SDOH)

### 4. Postpartum Mental Health

- Addressing depression, trauma, and substance use during and after pregnancy

## Funding Details

- **Grant Type:** General Operating Support
- **Grant Term:** 3 years (January 2026 – December 2028)
- **Anticipated Award Range:** \$25,000 – \$30,000 annually (final amount will vary based on organization size and proposed impact)
- **Grantee Cohort Benefits:**
  - Peer learning and capacity-building opportunities
  - Cohort-wide convenings and technical assistance
  - Relationship-building with GHF and fellow grantees

## Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (or have a fiscal sponsor)
- Be based in or serving Chicago's South or West Side communities
- Demonstrate a commitment to health and racial equity in mission, leadership, and operations
- Be willing to participate in a learning cohort and collaborate with other grantees
- Have programs that align with at least one of GHF's four Levers for Change

Organizations previously funded by GHF **must still submit an LOI** to be considered.

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## Application Process

GHF's grant process includes two stages:

### Stage 1: Letter of Inquiry (LOI)

- **Deadline:** Friday, June 13, 2025, by 5:00 PM CST
- Submit via GHF's online grant portal: [GHF Grant Portal](#)
- LOI submissions will be reviewed for alignment with GHF priorities and cohort goals

### Stage 2: Full Application (By Invitation Only)

- Selected organizations will be invited to submit a full proposal
  - **Deadline for invited applicants:** Friday, September 12, 2025, by 5:00 PM CST
  - Final decisions will be made by **December, 2025** and funding will begin **January, 2026**
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## Evaluation Criteria

GHF will review applications based on the following:

- Alignment with Levers for Change and geographic focus
  - Demonstrated community impact, especially among Black birthing people
  - Evidence of collaboration and ecosystem-building
  - Leadership commitment to equity and lived experience
  - Organizational capacity and readiness to engage in a multi-year learning cohort
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## Contact Information

For questions or technical assistance regarding this RFP or LOI process, please contact:

**Kate O'Connor, Executive Director**

Email: [koconnor@granthealthcare.org](mailto:koconnor@granthealthcare.org)