



Request for Proposals: Healing Illinois

RFP Release Date: November 1, 2024

Application deadline is November 15, 2024, at 8:00 PM Central Standard Time.

Information Sessions (Open to all Regions)

- November 4, 2024 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | [Register here.](#)
- November 7, 2024 | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | [Register here.](#)
- November 12, 2024 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | [Register here.](#)

Overview

Healing Illinois is a racial healing initiative led by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), in partnership with the Field Foundation of Illinois. The program is designed to distribute \$4.5 million in grants to organizations across the state to begin or continue the work of racial healing. At the core of the Healing Illinois initiative is the belief that all Illinoisans can advance racial healing by valuing the experiences of the people who live here and honoring the histories of its diverse communities.

Through this statewide initiative, IDHS and the Field Foundation seek to support organizations in developing and implementing programs and events that bring about greater understanding of the lived experiences of others and provide unique opportunities to learn from one another. Through this collective effort, the Healing Illinois initiative aims to unite communities and contribute to sustainable efforts that allow every Illinoisan to thrive.

Goals and Outcomes

By supporting organizations in developing and implementing programs, the Healing Illinois initiative seeks to create infrastructure that can promote long-term racial healing efforts in Illinois. The intended outcomes of the initiative are:

- Strengthened trust and interpersonal relationships among Illinois residents,
- More empathy, understanding, and bridging between communities, and
- More informed and engaged public around racial healing work.



Grant Categories

Community Building and Engagement: Funding for existing racial healing activities designed to strengthen relationships and promote collective healing within and across communities. This category prioritizes programs and events that bring people together to engage in dialogue, share learnings, or otherwise create spaces for racial healing.

Types of projects may include but are not limited to:

- Projects that build deeper interpersonal interactions through dialogue, racial healing circles, peace circles, restorative justice practices, etc.
- Intergenerational and intercultural projects.
- Creative arts, music and cultural projects, including community-wide murals, visual arts events, or exhibitions that celebrate our differences, address racial injustices, and promote healing through creative expression.

Media and Storytelling: Funding for projects that use media, narrative, and creative storytelling to advance racial healing. These projects aim to challenge dominant narratives that perpetuate harm. Types of projects may include but are not limited to:

- Storytelling and media platforms (digital media, photography, oral history and literature) as central elements of the project.
- Projects that give platform to local justice advocates, historians, and storytellers who create media that amplifies local stories and community histories.
- Programs or events that leverage digital platforms or social media to promote racial healing and dialogue through storytelling, sharing content that raises awareness of racial issues.
- Development of workshops or training aimed at empowering communities to tell their own stories, providing them with the tools to share narratives of resilience and healing.

Education and Awareness: This category aims to prioritize initiatives that educate individuals and communities on the impact of historic and ongoing harms and highlight pathways towards healing. Types of projects may include but are not limited to:

- Public workshops and trainings that educate communities about the history of racism, the principles of racial healing, and strategies for addressing racial injustice.
- Online educational platforms, webinars, or e-learning tools for broader audiences that increase access to information on historic and ongoing harms



that have impacted diverse Illinoisans and their communities. Public lectures, panels, and events that feature thought leaders, historians, racial justice advocates, and community members who can share expertise and experiences on topics related to racial healing.

- Leadership development programs for racial healing practitioners, educators, organizers, and leaders of color in relation to racial healing, power building, and community advocacy.

Application Requirements

- Organizational Overview: Background information about the organization and its mission.
- Proposal Narrative: Detailed description of the project, including target audiences, expected outcomes, and alignment with grant categories.
- Budget and Funding Request: Breakdown of the project budget and timeline, including how the grant funds will be used and plans to fully expend the funds by June 30, 2025.

Evaluation and Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Alignment: Proposed project and corresponding activities align with the Healing Illinois funding priorities.
- Feasibility: Organization's capacity to implement the project successfully, including experience, resources, and partnerships.
- Project Scope: Projected activities and proposed budget are in alignment with the overall timeframe of the Healing Illinois initiatives.
- Reporting: The application demonstrates the organization's capacity to document and evaluate the results of the project.

The application review process will consist of an initial review led by each respective region, followed by a state-wide review led by a panel comprised of representatives from each region. The state-wide review panel will convene for a day of review to make final grant recommendations. All reviewers have extensive knowledge of the Healing Illinois initiative, possess regional knowledge and understand the nonprofit landscape, and bring years of experience in grant making.



Regional Approach

As in prior years, the Healing Illinois team will collect applications through a regional approach:

Region 1 – Cook County region (including Chicago area)

Region 2 – Northern Illinois

Region 3 – North Central Illinois

Region 4 – South Central Illinois

Region 5 – Southern Illinois

Intermediaries

For organizations in regions 2-5, the Healing Illinois team has identified intermediaries to support the redistribution of grant funds.

- YWCA Northwest Illinois – Region 2 Intermediary
- United Way of Champaign County – Region 3 Intermediary
- United Way of Central Illinois – Region 4 Intermediary
- Southern Illinois Community Foundation – Region 5 Intermediary

These intermediaries have extensive knowledge in grantmaking and established relationships with organizations in their regions. Please note: Organizations may only apply for one Healing Illinois grant.

- To determine your organization's region, [click here](#).

Monitoring and Reporting

- Financial Reports: Healing Illinois sub-grant recipients will be required to submit bi-monthly financial reports to ensure organizations are on track to spend the funds. A detailed schedule will be provided during the onboarding phase.
- Site Visits/Virtual Check-ins: Grantees will be required to attend scheduled site visits or check-ins to ensure organizations are on track to implement their projects.
- Final Report: Final grantee reports will be due July 15, 2025.



Capacity-building and Support

Technical support will be provided to Healing Illinois sub-grant recipients to assist with required financial reporting, data tracking, and other reporting throughout the grant term. Workshops on messaging and storytelling will be offered as well. Grantees will learn more during the onboarding phase.

Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must be a 501(c)3 public charity nonprofit organization in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State; municipalities and government agencies such as schools and libraries; colleges and universities; and faith-based institutions.
- For Region 1, at the time of application, applicants must be Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) certified. For Region 2-5, applicants do not have to be GATA certified. For more details about GATA certification, visit Illinois.gov/GATA.
- For fiscally sponsored applicants, the fiscal sponsor must be GATA certified, and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) must be attached with the grant application.

Grant Amounts Available and Grant Terms

Funded activities must be implemented and grant funds expended, by June 30, 2025. Interested applicants may apply for up to \$30,000.

Application Process

Healing Illinois will be using Just Fund to support applications submissions. Just Fund is a common application system that serves as a national repository for non-profit organizations. Once organizations establish a profile in Just Fund, they can be considered for additional grantmaking opportunities that extend beyond the Healing Illinois initiative.

Organizations must complete their application via [The JustFund Common Application](#). To access the application, grant seekers must first create an account in JustFund. For more information on how to create an account, visit the [resources page](#). For additional support email info@justfund.us.



Application deadline is November 15, 2024, at 8:00 PM CST

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

We will hold three Information Sessions for interested applicants:

- November 4, 2024 | 2:00pm – 3:30pm | [Register here.](#)
- November 7, 2024 | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | [Register here.](#)
- November 12, 2024 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | [Register here.](#)

Timeline

- Application Period: Early to mid-November 2024
- Review and Selection: Late November 2024
- Grant Disbursement: December 2024
- Monitoring and Reporting: February 2025 – June 2025
- Final Report: July 15, 2025

Contact Information

For technical questions regarding the application portal, email info@justfund.us.

For programmatic and application content questions, email at healingillinois@fieldfoundation.org.

About the Illinois Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services is one of Illinois' largest agencies, with more than 13,000 employees. Illinois created IDHS in 1997 to provide our state's residents with streamlined access to integrated services, especially those who are striving to move from welfare to work and economic independence, and others who faced multiple challenges to self-sufficiency. For more information, visit www.dhs.state.il.us.

About The Field Foundation of Illinois

The Field Foundation of Illinois is a private and independent foundation that, along with its strategic partners, distributes more than \$10 million annually to organizations and leaders working to address systemic issues in historically marginalized areas of Chicago. To support community power building, the Field Foundation invests in Chicago's civic infrastructure, creative sector, local news outlets, and organizers. Learn more at www.fieldfoundation.org.