

## Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education

# Questions and Answers

*The following questions surfaced during the October 25, 2023, information session (webinar) regarding the Spring 2024 Funding Opportunity. Some questions have been edited for clarity or have been consolidated with other similar questions.*

### **Focus of the Funding**

**1. Is this funding opportunity only for research projects? Or is it also for non-research activities and initiatives, such as expanding community-based education and outreach activities?**

Yes, this funding opportunity is for both research projects and non-research activities and initiatives, such as expanding community-based education and outreach activities.

**2. Can funding focus entirely on the community messaging/education piece utilizing existing research, rather than conducting research?**

Yes, this would be permissible.

**3. We intend to research our gun violence intervention/prevention program. Can you clarify how much of the funding you would expect to go towards research activities versus the actual gun violence program activities/implementation?**

We are not specifying how much should go toward research vs. the activities/implementation and would look to the applicant to make their plans for allocation clear. The only limit on funding is that no more 15% of the total project costs are allowed to be used toward indirect/overhead costs (those expenses that exist beyond those needed to complete the proposed project, e.g., rent, administrative support, telephone/fax/internet, etc.). For subcontracts, indirect/overhead costs may not exceed 15% of direct costs.

**4. Can we apply for this funding to expand the direct services we provide to communities impacted by gun violence, such as early education initiatives and supportive housing?**

You could apply for this funding if gun violence mitigation and interventions are at the core of the educational and supportive housing initiatives and there is an aspect of the project that includes capacity building for or execution of research or education/narrative change activities specific to gun violence prevention.

**5. Could funding be used to expand a community violence intervention program to include a project focused on firearm suicide?**

Yes, provided that the project includes capacity building for or execution of research or education/narrative change activities specific to gun violence prevention.

**6. Are you placing more emphasis on community violence or firearm suicide? Are you earmarking a certain amount for each?**

We want to make an impact in both areas and are not predetermining allocations for each area. Our decisions will be based on the strength of each project, timeliness, and the role of impacted communities in the project (how does the project authentically engage impacted communities, is it community-informed and/or community-led, etc.).

- 7. Are you primarily aiming to fund research that has a prevention or intervention model, or are you interested in exploring root causes of firearm injury in a community?**  
Yes, we are interested in projects on prevention and intervention but also those that illuminate and improve our knowledge of the root causes of community gun violence.
- 8. Can you please describe an example of relevant "clinical care models" or "clinical interventions"?**  
An example would be researching the integration of firearm suicide prevention tools in health care settings -- e.g., patient-reported access to firearms and a decision aid for securing firearms. (KP's Health Research Institute in Washington has investigated this.)
- 9. Is police violence a topic that can be included in the research under this funding?**  
While we are focused on community violence and firearm suicide, we are open to applicants engaged in projects that address other types of violence.
- 10. Will projects with preliminary data be given funding preference?**  
No, we do not have this preference.
- 11. Do these funds focus on our learnings pre-COVID or post-COVID?**  
The funding is not using COVID as a marker. Learnings to date, whether pre- or post-COVID, are relevant.
- 12. Would it be more beneficial/acceptable to submit for a community gun violence prevention curriculum implementation or for publishing findings from the curriculum implementation?**  
Either of these is acceptable; one would not be preferred over the other.

## Funding Categories

- 13. How is the total funding distributed – all at once or spread out across the funding period?**  
For Category 1 – the \$60,000 grant – we are allowing applicants to propose in the budget that they need the full amount of funding upfront at the start of the grant or that they would like it to be dispersed over the two years. For Categories 2 and 3, we are allowing applicants to propose in their budgets a disbursement schedule based on their needs and those disbursements don't need to be equal every year. However, for these categories, we are not able to support a disbursement of the full grant amount in one installment at the start of the grant period.
- 14. How many awards will be issued per category?**  
The Center is not predetermining a certain number of awards per category. We are leaving the door open to make this determination based on the strength of applications received across the categories.
- 15. Would Category 1 funding be applicable to researching efficacy and scaling up training programs, e.g., developing a training model that could be shared nationwide?**  
Yes, this would be an appropriate use of Category 1 funding.
- 16. Does "rigorous assessment" in category 2 have to be quantitative?**  
We will consider both quantitative and qualitative studies for Category 2. You can do either of these approaches or a mixed methods approach.
- 17. Should Category 3 (\$600,000) include activities from options 1 (\$60,000) and 2 (\$200,000)?**  
No, this is not required. Category 3 is for robust research initiatives or narrative change initiatives that already have measurable work and have been tested or have some promising evidence that may only require a more rigorous study at that point.

**18. In Category 3, can you clarify whether you are looking to fund new research or expansion/dissemination of existing research?**

For Category 3, we are looking to fund groundbreaking studies, including 1) new studies of existing interventions and 2) expansion and dissemination of existing research on existing interventions. Projects focused on new research of a new intervention are more appropriate for funding Category 2.

**19. In Category 3, what is meant by "publishable research" and "investigator-initiated research"?**

Investigator-initiated research is simply referring to the core lead of the research, whether it be an individual at a university, a health care organization, or a community-based organization. By "publishable," we're driving home that we want to fund studies that will produce findings or outcomes that can be published in a major academic journal at a minimum. The study would ideally also be compelling enough to merit interest from a broader set of more widely accessible publications. We want findings to extend beyond the academic sector into communities served and the broader public. That's because one of our goals is to effect change in terms of the narratives that are told about gun violence. Demonstrating findings through research – and then sharing those findings, is a critical component of narrative change.

**20. In Category 3 – does "rigorous studies" refer to quantitative research only? Is it restricted to randomized controlled trials, etc.? Does every project for this category need to include both PAR and large N quantitative analyses?**

We will consider both quantitative and qualitative studies for Category 3. You can do either of these approaches or a mixed methods approach.

**21. Would qualitative analysis of the short-term impacts of a community-based intervention count as "rigorous research"?**

Provided the study uses a sound design and follows best practices for qualitative research, this could be considered rigorous research.

**22. We have been working in community-led gun violence prevention for a long time but have a very new program model we would like to simultaneously launch and evaluate (in partnership with an academic institution). Could we apply for Category 3 even though it is technically a "new" program model?**

Evaluating a new program or intervention would be more appropriate for Category 2.

### **Number of Applications Per Researcher or Organization/Institution**

**23. Can one researcher or organization apply for multiple categories of funding? Are there downsides to applying for more than one funding category?**

One researcher or organization can apply for up to two categories (i.e. submit two separate applications) and you will not be penalized for doing so, but we do ask that if applying to two categories, you ensure that the projects are very distinct from each other. It is also important to note that we would not be able to fund a single individual or organization for more than one category. We are focused on equity and want to ensure that we are funding a broad range of individuals and organizations.

**24. Can more than one organization apply together? For example, a healthcare organization and a community-based organization?**

Yes, we welcome collaboration, but you will need to determine who will be the lead organization on the application.

**25. If an organization (org 1) applies as fiscal sponsor of another organization (org 2), and org 2 wants to also submit an application on their own for a different category, would only one of these organizations be funded?**

This is a complex scenario that we cannot approach prescriptively; we would need to make determinations on a case-by-case basis.

**26. Can a single researcher submit multiple LOI for a single category focusing on different questions?**

Yes, this would be permissible (though there is a maximum of two LOI). You would not be able to submit both LOI as part of one application, though. You would need to submit each LOI in its own application (two applications to one category).

## **Eligibility and Requirements**

**27. Does the research or initiative have to be tied to a specific geographic community (i.e., local and/or state communities) or can it be national in nature?**

No, eligibility is not tied to a specific geographic area. It can be local, regional, or national. It is important in any of these cases that the research or initiative is focused on and engages communities most impacted by gun violence. For example, a proposal focused at the local level (i.e., a city) needs to focus on and engage the communities in that city who are most impacted by gun violence. A proposal focused at the national level needs to focus on and engage the communities that are shown nationwide to be most impacted by gun violence.

**28. Can we hire a research firm, or would it need to be an internal staff member as part of our proposal?**

Either is acceptable. What matters is that you explain the reasoning for your approach – whether internal staff member or external firm – in your proposal.

**29. As a state public health agency, can we define our community as individuals and groups doing community violence intervention work in our state?**

Yes, this would be permissible.

**30. Would an application that has the community partner as the lead be accepted? We are a grassroots community-led non-profit, and we would like to add a research arm.**

Yes, an application for a research project that has the community partner as the lead can be accepted and we encourage community-led efforts. Also, you may partner with a research firm if you wish.

**31. If we are a direct service organization seeking a grant for program evaluation, do we need to have a research partner identified before submitting an LOI?**

No, you do not need to have a research partner identified at the time that you submit your LOI.

**32. Does an independent researcher need to have a 501c3 fiscal agent to collaborate with, or would this requirement be waived in this case?**

Applicants must hold a position at a 501c3 nonprofit institution or organization. If you are an independent researcher working with a 501c3 organization, then that organization must apply for the funds.

**33. If someone from an institution is funded already by Kaiser Permanente, does that make the institution ineligible to be awarded funding through this opportunity?**

If someone is already funded by Kaiser Permanente currently, it is possible they could also be awarded funds through this opportunity. However, no investigator can receive more than one award under this specific funding opportunity.

**34. Can we include a public entity as a partner?**

Yes. Quasi-governmental organizations as well as state and local government agencies within the U.S. can also submit applications for this opportunity.

**35. Can a lead organization be a university? We would apply through our foundation, which is a 501c3.**

Yes, non-profit organizations are eligible to apply and include community-based organizations, academic institutions and hospitals, and groups with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor.

**36. If an organization has a federally approved negotiated indirect cost rate that is higher than 15%, will you accept that higher negotiated rate?**

Indirect costs may not exceed 15%.

**37. Will all awarded applicants be required to publicly publish a report as a part of deliverables of the grant research? And will this require an IRB?**

While public reports are not required, dissemination strategies will be essential for category 2 and 3 applicants moving on to the full application round. Recipients must adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the use of human subjects in research including informed consent, when appropriate. It is the responsibility of the Recipient's Institution to ensure that all approvals (IRB, other) are in place prior to releasing any award funds that will be used in cases where human subjects are engaged.

**38. What amount is included in the funding for F&A?**

F&A may not exceed 15%.

**39. Rent/utilities are not covered by our federally approved indirect cost rate agreement – would those costs still contribute to the 15% cap?**

General Operating costs and the like could fall under the Infrastructure line, as long as the funding is used to support operations associated with the project.

**40. Are the funds restricted – i.e. can funding be used to pay youth who would be involved in the project, to purchase gift cards to incentivize community participation, or to fund stipends for community members in return for their time?**

No, funds are not restricted, as long as the activity described is tied to the program and can demonstrate impact. We have no concerns about funds being used to support engagement with community members.

**41. Is the funding reimbursement-based (i.e., we submit timesheets and receipts for reimbursement)?**

This opportunity is not reimbursement-based.

## **Application and Letter of Intent (LOI)**

### **42. Where can we locate the grant application?**

The grant application requires that you log into a portal, fill out some information, and upload a PDF containing various elements of the application, including a Letter of Intent. You can find a link to the portal and the application template for the PDF on the [Funding Opportunities](#) page of the [Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education website](#).

### **43. Under the application cover page, question B asks for proof of 501(c)(3) status. If we are a governmental or quasi-governmental organization, do we also need to submit proof and if so, what form of proof is required?**

All organizations should submit a copy of their IRS determination letter.

### **44. In the LOI, do we need to explicitly identify the co-investigators and consultants, or can we save that information for the full application?**

You do not need to have co-investigators and consultants identified at the time that you submit your LOI.

### **45. The LOI requires that applications state the amount of funds requested for this work. Is it correct that you want a bottom-line number, but no narrative/budget? How detailed are cost estimates required to be at the LOI stage?**

We do not require a budget in the LOI. However, the proposed activities should be clearly thought through and tied to costs so that if you are invited to submit a full proposal you can clearly demonstrate how the funds will be disbursed to meet the goals and objectives of the proposed work.

### **46. When developing a budget, what are examples of expenses this grant could possibly cover?**

You can find detailed information on activities the grant will cover on page 9 of the RFP.

### **47. If the LOI is not exactly on point, but you are interested in it, will you give us feedback to refine the LOI?**

We recommend that you make your LOI as strong as possible before submitting it and reach out to us if you have questions as you are working on it. We will not be able to provide opportunities for feedback, refinement, and resubmission after LOIs are submitted.

### **48. For the LOI, would it be appropriate/allowed to include a logic model or theory of change?**

Yes, this could be included in the Goals and Project Activities and/or Research Design sections of the LOI. This will not count as part of the two-page LOI limit.

### **49. How many references would you like to see?**

There is no requirement.

### **50. Is the expectation that applicants disclose their lived experience?**

We value inclusion of people with lived experience of violence in this work because it is critical that their voices are heard and that gun violence interventions and solutions are informed by their insights. Disclosure of personal lived experience is not required as part of the application. What should be included in the application, however, is a clear articulation of how individuals with lived experience are engaged in and contributing to the project.

## **General/Misc**

**51. Do you anticipate other funding opportunities in 2024 from the Center for Gun Violence Research and Education?**

We anticipate offering additional funding opportunities in the future; click the “subscribe” button at the bottom of our home page ([kpcenterforgunviolenceresearch.org](http://kpcenterforgunviolenceresearch.org)) to make sure you received updates from us on future opportunities.

**52. Is this a grant opportunity that you have offered in the past?**

The Center has awarded grants in the past, but this is the first Request for Proposals that the Center has issued.

**53. Is this using federal funding?**

No.

**54. Are these funding announcements related to or funded by PCORI at all?**

No.