

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems—Public Health Institutes Opportunity

In partnership with Trust for America's Health (TFAH), the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is offering the opportunity, with the generous support from The John A. Hartford Foundation, to award 10 Public Health Institutes with funding to advance healthy aging in your state. TFAH is a national leader in guiding state and local health department adoption of Age-Friendly Public Health policies and practices and is working with NNPHI to further embed this work. Using lessons learned from engagement with the Mississippi State Department of Health, and its adoption of an Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) action plan, NNPHI and TFAH will facilitate capacity building and development of expertise among the 10 selected PHIs, which will then be required to partner with their state departments of health to develop an Age-Friendly Public Health action plan, based on TFAH's [AFPHS 6 C's Framework](#).

Overview

Due to a combination of factors, including improvements in health and longevity, the aging of the baby boomer generation, and declining fertility rates, older adults are the fastest growing demographic of the U.S. population. Every day, 10,000 people reach age 65. All sectors should be engaged in promoting healthy aging (health care, justice, business, etc.), but given public health's contributions to helping Americans live longer, it should also contribute to the ongoing health and productivity of these citizens. Historically, the public health sector has not been funded to focus systematically on promoting the health of older adults.

TFAH has led the AFPHS initiative since 2017 to make the health and well-being of older adults a public health priority. The initiative is built on the 6 C's Framework, which provides guidance on the roles that public health can fulfill – in partnership with the aging services and health care sectors – to improve the health and well-being of older Americans.

Public health agencies across the nation have collaborated with skilled nursing facilities to implement stronger infection control procedures, focused attention on the needs of those who are confined to their homes and isolated from their families and friends and identified and responded to the elevated burden that the pandemic has had on older adults of color. The lessons from this current specialized attention can be useful in shaping ongoing, multi-faceted public health efforts that target the older adult population.

Becoming an Age-Friendly Public Health System

The AFPHS Framework is neither a prescriptive guide to action nor a declaration of the public health sector's oversight of certain activities. Rather, it offers a useful articulation of the potential contributions that public health should consider as it embraces a larger role in optimizing the health of older adults. While there are certain core elements, age-friendly public health may look

somewhat different in each state and local as a result of the local demographics, conditions, and resources. A component of the initial and ongoing work is understanding the work of and, when possible, partnering with organizations in other sectors that are already working to improve older adult health.

The AFPHS initiative was designed to first explore and then expand AFPHS on a state-by-state basis. This process has been successful as demonstrated by the Florida pilot and ongoing work in Michigan, Mississippi, and Washington. However, to fully embed and sustain age-friendly policies and practice requires more than an initiative and must spread to more than one or two states. Thus, NNPHI and TFAH believe that building capacity within the public health institute system will significantly advance the adoption of AFPHS policies and practices.

Opportunity

- The grant period will start September 1, 2023 and end March 31, 2026.
- Each institute will receive \$50,000.

Expectations

Over the course of the grant period, applicants will be expected to:

- Provide a point-of-contact at the institute to coordinate and lead activities within the State and participate in leadership training (both in-person and virtual).
- Regular meetings with the NNPHI and TFAH teams for technical assistance and guidance. (Monthly meetings in Year 1, bi-monthly meetings in Years 2-3.)
- Complete learning modules based on the AFPHS 6Cs Framework.
- Complete steps to receive acknowledgement from the AFPHS Recognition Program.
- Engage with their state department of health to develop state-level action plans for embedding healthy aging through a 6Cs action plan.

TFAH and NNPHI will provide:

- Subject matter expertise and training, both in-person and virtually.
- Resources and materials to guide the development of the 6Cs action plan.
- Regular calls and meetings to provide guidance and support for all activities.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Eligible entities are all NNPHI members, Category A, B and C.

NNPHI and TFAH will select 10 PHIs for this opportunity based on responses to the questions below. Both organizations are committed to demonstrating the feasibility and value of AFPHS in

a variety of public health structures and environments and welcomes all NNPHI members to apply.

Application Questions (criteria) – with suggested maximum page lengths. Please note all criteria are weighted equally.

- 1) Detail your state's population, geography and any trends that influence the health and well-being of older adults. Please specifically highlight current gaps in your state's public health system to effectively address these trends and how this opportunity will help build capacity for your PHI in working with the public health system. (1 page)
- 2) Describe your current efforts and level of readiness to address the needs of older adults in your state. If none, please describe how your PHI has worked to support the health and well-being of another specific population(s). The description should include: 1) how your current efforts are improving the health and well-being of that population (e.g., does your public health system collect data on that population?); 2) how your PHI is positioned to leverage the opportunity to improve its level of readiness to and ability to address the needs of older adults; and 3) how your state currently addresses or will plan to address health disparities among older adults (e.g., does your State Health Improvement Plan prioritize Health Equity?). (2 pages)
- 3) Please describe how you collaborate and coordinate with state and local health departments and how you would plan to engage with them to effectively implement this opportunity. How will your PHI engage a broad cross-section of partners along with state and local health departments? Please include any specific information on how your PHI has collaborated with Area Agencies on Aging or other partners that specifically focus on older adults. (1 page)
- 4) Describe other initiatives that might be leveraged to support this opportunity. How would your PHI align this opportunity with the activities of those initiatives? How might this work further advance the objectives of these other initiatives and your organization or help to maximize resources? Would this opportunity add value and not duplicate any of these efforts? (1 page)

An information webinar will be held on June 14, 2023 from 3pm – 4:30pm ET to provide background information and answer questions on the expectations and funding. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

Applications are due by midnight on July 14, 2023. Selected PHIs will be notified by August 1, 2023.

Submit applications to afphs@tfah.org.



Notice to Applicants: Please be advised that NNPHI reserves the right to modify the terms of the RFP with reasonable notification to all interested parties. This RFP and any related discussions create no rights or obligations whatsoever. NNPHI may cancel or delay this solicitation at any time at its discretion. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the contract executed by NNPHI and the selected applicant, if any, will be the exclusive statement of rights and obligations extending from this solicitation. Applicants are further advised that all information that applicants submit in response to this solicitation shall remain in the public domain.