

“2026 Moment of Spark” Grant Opportunity

Informational Webinar

May 11th 2026 | 2 p.m.



How do you bring your good ideas to life?

Please take a moment to share your answers in the chat.



Agenda

- About Georgia Health Initiative
- “2026 Moment of Spark” Grant Opportunity
Overview (Akil)
- Funding Amount & Application Requirements
(Akil)
- Application Timeline, Support & Online
Instructions (Rochelle)
- Q&A





About Georgia Health Initiative

Our Mission

To inspire and promote collective action that advances health equity for all Georgians.

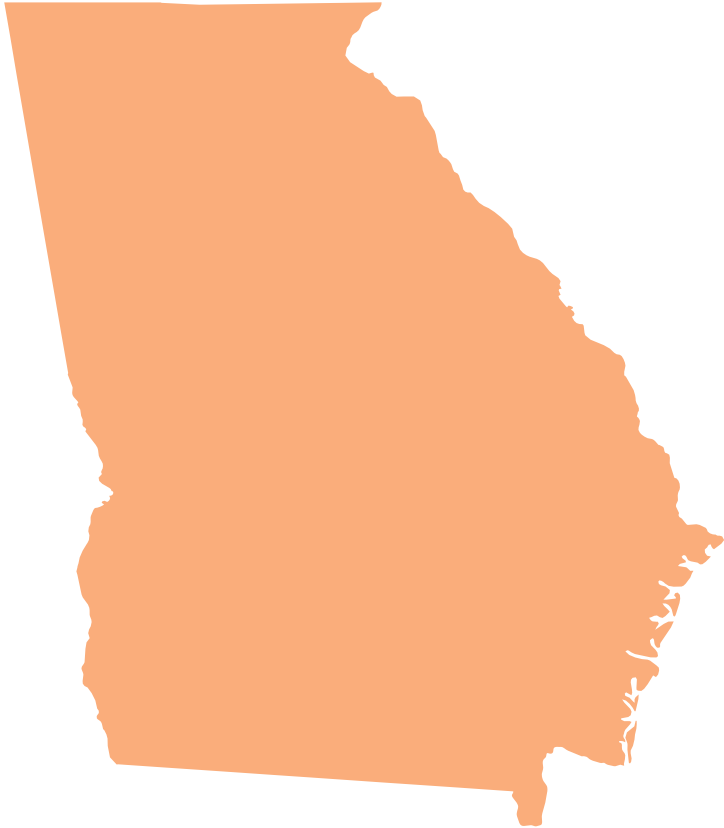
Our Vision

A Georgia in which all people have the opportunity to attain their fullest potential for health.

Our Values

Courageous Leadership • Trust • Equity • Partnership

Our Approach



- Put **relationships** at the heart of our work
- Create environments that enable and encourage **diverse groups of people** to work together over time so that the best ideas and approaches can emerge
- Form and strengthen **partnerships** with nonprofit organizations, health care providers, the philanthropic sector, decisionmakers, and the business community to identify and advance common strategies for achieving equitable health outcomes
- Take a **systems approach** to solving complex social challenges
- Use our voice, influence, and platform to **amplify and elevate** the people and organizations doing health equity work in our state
- Assemble and share knowledge, supporting and augmenting the work of our partners as they push toward the common goal of **health equity**





“2026 Moment of Spark” Grant Opportunity Overview



“Moment of Spark” Grant Opportunity



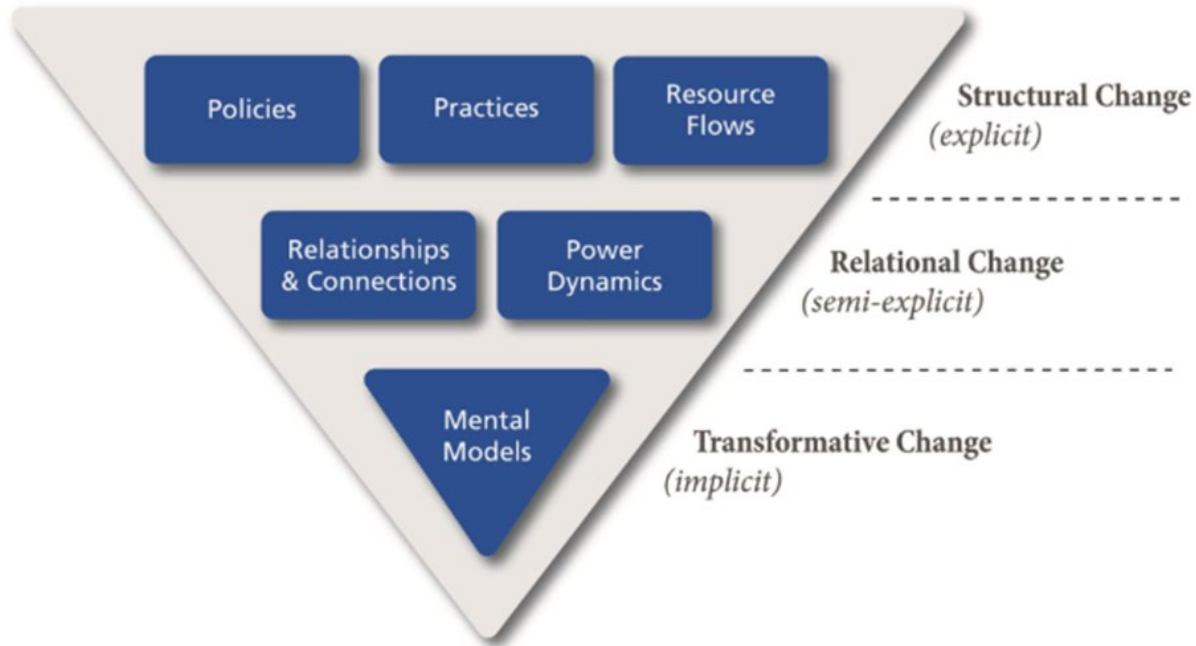
The “2026 Moment of Spark” grant provides flexible funding and support to community-driven collaboratives—led by a backbone/anchor organization—ready to act on a timely opportunity to advance health equity.

- A “**Moment of Spark**” is when it feels like the right time to take action—like when a decision is being made, energy is building around an issue, or the conditions are right to move a good idea forward.



Systems Change & Interorganizational Collaboration

Six Conditions of Systems Change



- Systems change is a strategic approach that aims to address the root causes of social issues by altering the underlying structures, policies, power dynamics, and mindsets within a system, rather than treating symptoms
- Collaboration is essential for systems change because;
 - We're experiencing complex, interdependent challenges.
 - Multiple perspectives matter.
 - Collaboration is a system itself.
 - True collaboration means freely sharing knowledge and leveraging collective intelligence to reshape the system.



About the Opportunity

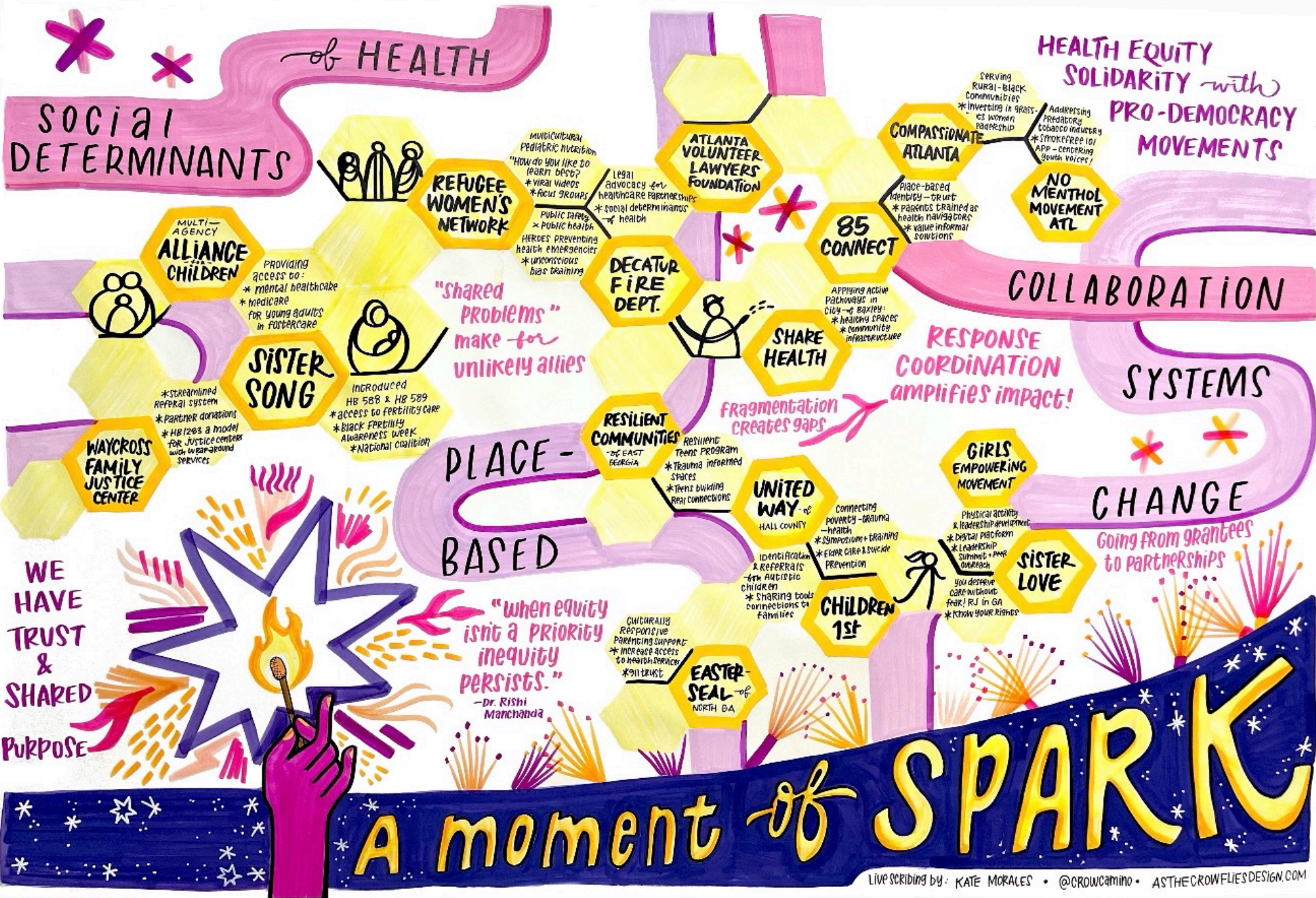
Through the "2026 Moment of Spark" grants, Georgia Health Initiative aims to support projects that:

- **Strengthening the capacity** of local leaders who have a track record—or meaningful experience—in community-driven change.
- Approaching your project in a way that **addresses the root cause(s)** of the identified health issue.
- Designing solutions that are **inclusive of the needs, experience and/or leadership of the directly impacted community**—those currently carrying the burden of health disparities.
- Creative, **Place-Based Approach** beginning and ending with improving conditions for the targeted community (or communities), with a design that can be scaled or adapted over time, beyond this catalytic grant. And;
- **Intentional Partnerships** that are curated in a way that shows careful attention to creating a partnership structure responsive to the identified Moment of Spark and in a way that honors local leaders, organizations, an/or sectors.



“We can't impose our will on a system. We can listen to what the system tells us, and discover how its properties and our values can work together to bring forth something much better than could ever be produced by our will alone.”

— Donella H. Meadows, *Thinking In Systems:
A Primer*



Moment of Spark Partners' Celebration | April 23, 2026

LIVE SCRIBING BY: KATE MORALES • @CROWCAMINO • ASTHECROWFLIESDESIGN.COM



Funding Amount & Application Requirements

Who Can Apply

- Tax-exempt public charities as qualified by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3)
 - Applicants may apply with a fiscal agent or sponsor if needed
- Organizations working in Georgia on behalf of Georgians
- Organizations working in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of Georgia Health Initiative:
 - **Our Mission:** To inspire and promote collective action that advances health equity for all Georgians.
 - **Our Vision:** A Georgia in which all people have the opportunity to attain their fullest potential for health.
 - **Our Values:** Courageous Leadership, Trust, Equity, Partnership



Application Guidelines

Applications are open from April 27, 2026, through June 5, 2026, at 12 Noon (ET).

- **Can apply for up to \$55,000**

Budget requests should match the size and scope of the project.

- **12-month grant period**

All awarded projects will start August 2026 until August 2027.

- **Anticipate funding up to 15 grant awards**



Application Narrative

We are looking for your project ideas! Organizations submitting applications should develop an application narrative that covers:

- Define your Moment of Spark and name why a response to this particular moment is needed now.
- Who will benefit from this action in the short term and the long term, and how will that impact take place?
- How does investment in this moment have the potential to change the systems holding the problem in place?
- How will support of this response create or strengthen working relationships?
- What does a learning mindset—focused on lessons learned along the journey as much as on outcomes—look like for the proposed project?
- What is the projected timeline/schedule of proposed activities?

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THE QUESTION YOU ARE RESPONDING TO IS VISIBLE IN
RESPONSE SUBMISSIONS**



Application Review Criteria

We are looking for your project ideas! Organizations submitting applications should develop an application narrative that covers:

- **Alignment with the Initiative's vision, mission, and values**
- **Timeliness and Responsiveness (Moments of Spark)**
 - Does the application clearly respond to a timely opportunity to influence a decision, shift conditions, or build momentum toward change?
- **Focus on Systems Change**
 - To what extent does the proposed work address the underlying policies, practices, power dynamics, or relationships that hold the problem in place for the population(s) being served?
- **Building Civic Capacity**
 - Does the project build the ability of communities, residents, and/or partners to act together, influence systems, and sustain change over time?
- **Interorganizational Collaboration**
 - How well does the proposal demonstrate meaningful partnership across organizations or entities, including shared roles, trust, and coordination toward a common goal?
- **Place-Based Approach**
 - Is the proposed work grounded in local context, relationships, and accountability to a specific community or region?



Use of Grant Project Funds

Project funds can be used for:

- Salaries/benefits for staff for project-specific activities
- Project-related equipment
- Other direct expenses
- Consulting fees
- Grant-related travel
- Indirect expenses

Project funds cannot be used for:

- More than one application per organization
- Capital campaigns or renovations
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- Grants or scholarships to individuals
- Event sponsorships
- Existing deficits or retroactive funding
- Lobbying
 - [Practical Guidance: What Nonprofits Need to Know About Lobbying in Georgia](#)





Application Timeline, Support & Online Instructions

“2026 Moment of Spark” RFA Timeline

June 5, 2026, 12 PM (ET)

Application Deadline

End of July 2026

All applicants notified in writing of
funding decision

August 2026

Project Period Begins

September 2026

Virtual Grantee Meeting



Accessing the Online Application Using SmartSimple

Step 1: Account login

Georgia Health Initiative

Login

Email

Password

Log In

Forgot Password?

Learn more about our [Privacy & Security policies](#)


New to the System? [New Users Register Here](#)

Welcome to Georgia Health Initiative's Online Application and Report Portal

- If you have established an account with the Foundation, please sign in using your previous log in and password. This is where you will fill out progress reports, reports, and find copies of grant documents.
- If you do not have an account please create one by clicking "New Users Register Here".
- If you have an account, but forgot your password, you can reset your password using the Forgot Password link.
- Be sure to click SAVE and/or SUBMIT before you exit the system or all your data will be lost.

Registration

I am applying as:

- Non-Profit Organization**
Register yourself and your organization.
- Fiscally Sponsored Entity**
Register yourself and your organization.
- Government**
Register yourself and your organization.
- Quasi Government**
Register yourself and your organization.
- Public Health Entities**
Register yourself and your organization.
- Universities**
Register yourself and your organization.
- Contractor** 
Register yourself and your organization.

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- Ensure your organization is registered in SmartSimple (**Do NOT select as a Contractor**)
- One application will be considered for each proposed project
- For joint applications, please ensure that only one organization from the collective submits the application
- For those applying with a fiscal sponsor, applications must be submitted by the fiscal sponsor

SmartSimple Portal URL: <https://georgiahealthinitiative.us-1.smartsimple.com/>



Accessing the Online Application Using SmartSimple

Step 2: Completing the application

The screenshot displays the SmartSimple application interface. At the top left is a purple header with a white 'S' logo. Below the header, the 'Applications' section features four circular icons: '1 Open Funding Opportunities' (circled in red), '0 In Progress', '0 Under Review', and '0 Completed'. Below this is the 'Reports & Amendments' section with four icons: 'Request a Grant Amendment', '0 Drafts', '0 Revisions Requested', and '0 Submitted'. A callout box highlights the 'Apply Now' button in the 'Open Funding Opportunities' list.

Open Funding Opportunities

Open Application	Max Request Amount	Project Period Dates	RFA	Deadline Date	
Moment of Spark	\$50,000.00	04/01/2025 to 04/30/2026	Moment_of_Spark_RFA.pdf	02/10/2025 12:00 PM	Apply Now

- Access the application using the “Open Funding Opportunities” button on your homepage
- On the Open Funding Opportunities List, locate the **Moment of Spark Open Application** and click the “Apply Now” button to complete the application
- You can save your application and return to complete it later by clicking the “Save” button before exiting the application. Use the “In Progress” button on your homepage to return to it.

Note: Only click the “Submit” button once the application is complete and ready for submission



Accessing the Online Application Using SmartSimple

Step 2: Completing the application

ORGANIZATION CONTACT REQUEST ATTACHMENTS

Organization Type

501C3 NONPROFIT ORG x

* Geographical Area(s) Served

If you are unsure which region to select, use this link to [The Regions of Georgia](#) as reference.

- Statewide
- Northwest
- Northeast
- Metro Atlanta
- West Central
- East Central
- Middle
- East
- West
- South
- Southwest
- Southeast
- Coastal

* Are you a Fiscal Sponsor or using a Fiscal Sponsor for this grant?

Yes v

There are **4 tabs** on the application:

- **Organization-** provide information about the organization submitting the application for the grant
- **Contact-** provide information for the point of contact and authorized signer of grant agreement
- **Request-** provide information about the project including the scope of work, funding amount requested, and start & end date
- **Attachments-** upload all required documents including the budget template, project narrative, current operating budget, IRS Letter of Determination, and 990 Form/Audit

Application Deadline:
June 5, 2026



Accessing the Online Application Using SmartSimple

Fiscally Sponsored Grants Section

* Are you a Fiscal Sponsor or using a Fiscal Sponsor for this grant?

Yes ▾

Fiscally Sponsored Grants

If you **HAVE** a Fiscal Sponsor for this grant, their organization should be listed above as the Organization for this application. (If your organization is listed, please abandon this draft and have your Fiscal Sponsor draft your application.)

If you **ARE** the Fiscal Sponsor, please invite your Implementing Partner(s) to collaborate on this grant by following the steps below:

- 1 – Enter the person's email address in the search bar.
- 2 – When the results appear, select the correct person's name on the dropdown list that appears. (This may take a few moments to load)
- 3 – If the person you are inviting does not have a SmartSimple account, they will need to create one using this link (<https://georgiahealthinitiative.us-1.smartsimple.com>) before you can add them.
- 4 – Once you have added the Implementing Partner successfully, their name will appear on the Implementing Partner list below.
- 5 – If you need to remove a partner from this application, check the box by their name and select the "Remove [-]" button above the Implementing Partner list.

Implementing Partners (1)

Assign your Implementing Partner(s) using this search field. Once successfully added, their name will appear in the list below.

1-1 of 1  

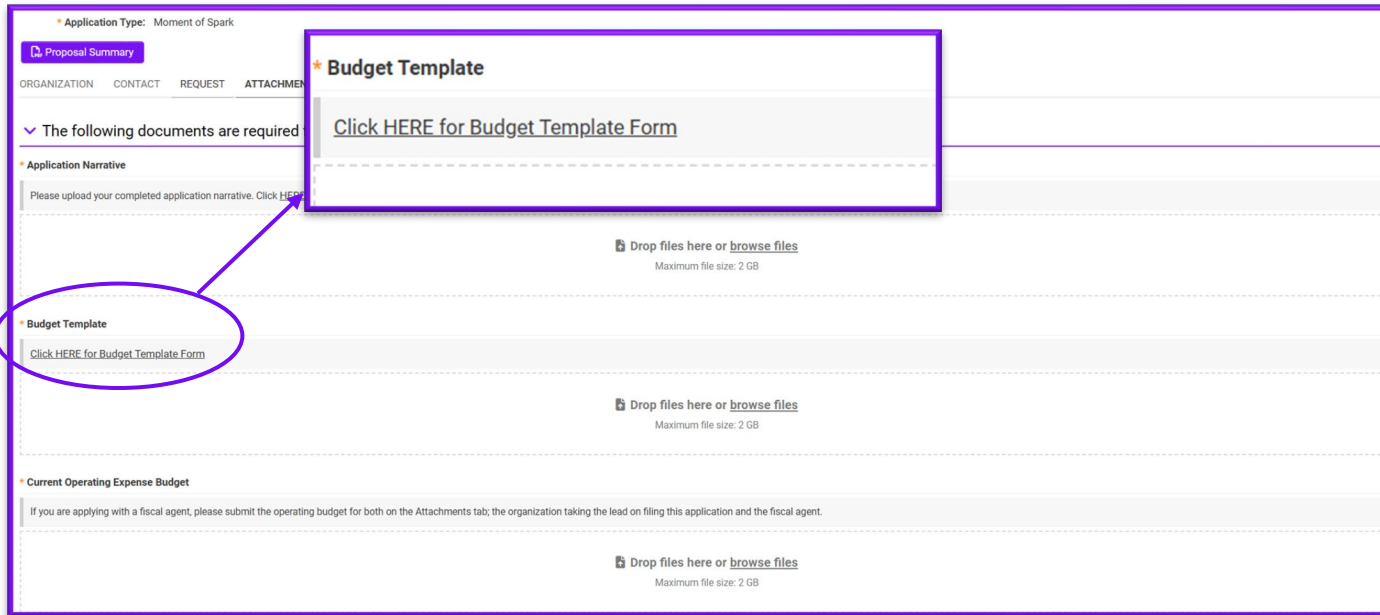
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementing Partner Organization	Implementing Partner First Name	Implementing Partner Last Name	Implementing Partner Email	Role
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fake Organization B	Fake First Name	Fake Last Name	test@test.com	Collaborator

Note: Implementing partner(s) MUST be registered in SmartSimple prior to being added to an application



Accessing the Online Application Using SmartSimple

Budget Template



Application Type: Moment of Spark

Proposal Summary

ORGANIZATION CONTACT REQUEST ATTACHMENTS

▼ The following documents are required

Application Narrative

Please upload your completed application narrative. [Click HERE](#)

Drop files here or [browse files](#)
Maximum file size: 2 GB

Budget Template

[Click HERE for Budget Template Form](#)

Drop files here or [browse files](#)
Maximum file size: 2 GB

Current Operating Expense Budget

If you are applying with a fiscal agent, please submit the operating budget for both on the Attachments tab; the organization taking the lead on filing this application and the fiscal agent.

Drop files here or [browse files](#)
Maximum file size: 2 GB

- All budget requests **MUST** be submitted using the Initiative's budget template form which is located under the Attachments tab in the application.
- If you are applying using a fiscal sponsor, please include **BOTH** organizations' current operating budget and audit.

Application Deadline:
June 5, 2026



Accessing the Online Application Using SmartSimple

Key Sections of Budget Template

Contracted Services/Other Compensation

Provide a detailed budget for contractors/consultants or compensation to project partners, including estimated hours, hourly rate, travel, or other direct project expenses. A MOU or contract for contracted services totaling \$10,000 or more must be provided.

Contracted Services:	Amount Requested:
Total Requested	

Budget Explanation:

Budget Spreadsheet
Applicant Name
Project Title

Input the totals from each section above and total them to reflect your Organizations full Requested Amount from the Foundation.

Project Budget	
Category	Amount Requested
Salary	
Benefits and Payroll Taxes	
Contracted Services/Other Compensation	
Equipment	
Travel	
Other Direct	
Indirect Expenses	
Lobbying Expenses	
TOTAL REQUESTED PROJECT BUDGET	

Contracted Services/Other Compensation

- List any organization that will receive more than \$10,000 from this grant under contracted services and include an MOU.

Project Budget (Chart on Final Page)

- Fill out all budget totals

Once you hit the “Submit” button for your application, you will not be able to return to it to make any changes or further edits.

Application Deadline:
June 5, 2026



RFA Office Hours

RFA Office hours provide a dedicated space for applicants to receive guidance and support tailored to their needs. During these sessions, our team is available to answer questions, offer insights, and provide feedback to help align your application with the grant's goals and priorities. Help you determine

To ensure equity for all applicants, question response will focus on supporting application alignment rather than providing in-depth, individualized proposal development or guarantees of funding. We aim to create a fair and transparent process that allows every participant to access meaningful support in a consistent and equitable manner.

Applicants are allowed up to one 15-minute session which can be signed up for using link in table for date of interest. More than one person is allowed to attend each session if they are collaborating on an application.

[Book time with Akil Reynolds: "2026 Moment of Spark" RFA Office Hours with Akil](#)



Q&A

- Please use the Q&A function to submit questions
- Please include your email address in case we're not able to answer your question today





For general questions about the RFA and your application, please contact:

- Akil Reynolds, Programmatic Partnerships Manager, at akil@georgiahealthinitiative.org.

For questions about the budget, online application, attachment requirements, and/or troubleshooting the application process, please contact:

- Rochelle Heard, Program Administration Manager, at rochelle@georgiahealthinitiative.org.



Thank you!

More information and access to the RFA can be found [here](#)

To learn more about our organization and engage with us, please sign up for our email distribution list at georgiahealthinitiative.org

Follow us on LinkedIn @ Georgia Health Initiative
