



Georgia Health Initiative: “2026 Moment of Spark” Grant

Moments of Spark are the inspiration or motivation for a need to act. These moments are not prescriptive, instead they are a recognition that there is a unique opportunity to respond: respond to a decision or influence a decision, respond to energy around a change that has happened or a change that could happen, or even respond to an idea that if nurtured could have momentum.

“2026 Moment of Spark” Grant: One-Year grant for up to \$55,000

The Georgia Health Initiative® (the Initiative) works to advance the long-term health and wellbeing of communities, families, and individuals in Georgia by helping communities leverage their collective power and act on their own visions for a healthy future. We believe that systems change is possible by supporting groups who are invested in responding to Moments of Spark that could progress the health of those in Georgia with partners who are aligned to reach a common goal.



When we think of systems change, we are referring to addressing the things that hold problems in place (policies, practices, resources, relationships and connections, power dynamics, and mental models). For more information on what we mean, refer to [The Water of Systems Change](#) article by John Kania, Mark Kramer, and Peter Senge (FSG, 2018).

The “2026 Moment of Spark” grant is designed to provide financial and other supportive resources to established or emerging collaboratives poised to respond to a **Moment of Spark**. Rather than give you a rigid or narrow definition of what a response could be to a Moment of Spark, our hope is that you will approach this concept with creativity with your partners. Our belief is that those living and working in communities are often more aware of what the moments are that have lasting impacts on those they support, and with funding and other support, can seize those moments to make a change.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate approaches that clearly acknowledge how everyday community-level challenges are shaped by broader patterns of power, policy, and history, and that seek to influence or change the conditions that keep inequities in place.

In addition, preference will be given to projects rooted in a clearly defined local or regional area within Georgia. Competitive applications will show a commitment to building relationships with community members and leaders directly impacted by systemic inequities of said region and an understanding of local context.

This grant is not intended to support projects focused primarily on direct service delivery or program implementation/continuation that address symptoms of inequity without engaging the underlying structural drivers.

Roles

The Initiative

- Provides a one-year, one-time grant of up to \$55,000 with 90% to be paid upon execution of grant agreement and the remaining 10% to be paid upon completion of all grant requirements.
- Offers both structured and flexible coaching and technical support to grantee partners, including training and coaching with strategic communications, understanding lobbying restrictions and advocacy opportunities, and grassroots organizing (groups of people working together to advocate for a cause in order to create change, or a positive impact).
- Engages grantee partners through one in-person site visit and ongoing virtual support with the Initiative's Community Engagement team to provide tailored guidance and timely feedback
- Convenes grantee partners once, in-person, during the grant period to share learnings, insights, and experiences

Grantees

- Executes vision for grant with an eye for how this work contributes to systems change in health equity
- Convenes partners in the work to benefit the specified community
- Learns from and evaluates the project, communicating lessons learned with one another and back to the Initiative

Application Requirements

- Proposal Document:** Submit a Word document through [SmartSimple](#) that **directly** responds to each of the following questions. The narrative should not exceed five pages, must be 1.5-spaced with at least 11-point font (Aptos, Arial or Times New Roman) and include one-inch margins, along with clear indication of which questions are being answered.
 - 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?

- Budget:** Please submit a project budget using the template provided in the [SmartSimple](#) system. Organizations are encouraged to allocate up to \$5,000 for anticipated technical assistance costs aligned with the proposed initiative. Allocating funds for this purpose is optional and may be adjusted as appropriate.

- Financial Documents:** Applicants should provide the following financial documents:
 - Current operating expense budget
 - Recent audited financials or 990
 - 501 (c)(3) IRS Letter of Determination
 - Note: If you are a fiscal agent that is applying on behalf of another organization/collaborative, please submit the operating expense budgets for both entities.
 - If submitting any of these documents is a challenge, please reach out to Rochelle Heard at rochelle@georgiahealthinitiative.org

- Additional Supporting Documentation**
 - Attach a directory of the lead organization's Board of Directors &/or a list of the Governance Members of the Collaborative.
 - Attach either a list of key partners and their roles or a [simple signed MOU](#) from key partners to demonstrate that project collaborations are established, substantive, and responsive to a clearly identified community need.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible organizations must:

- Be a tax-exempt public charity as qualified by the IRS under section 501(c)(3), a state or local government agency, or a coalition/collaborative using a fiscal sponsor that meets these criteria.
- Work in Georgia on behalf of Georgians
- Align with the mission, vision, and values of Georgia Health Initiative.

Project funds can be requested for the following:

- Salary and benefits of staff working on the project
- Project-related equipment
- Other direct expenses
- Consulting fees
- Project-related travel costs
- Indirect expenses

Project funds cannot be requested for the following:

- 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
- Direct services

Timeline

April 27, 2026 Application Period Opens

2 PM ET May 11, 2026 Informational Webinar

12 Noon ET, June 5, 2026 Application Deadline

June/July 2026 Internal Review/ Notification of Final Decisions

August 2026 Project Period Begins

August 2027 In-person end of grant convening in Atlanta, GA*

*Dates and times may be subject to change.

Funding

Organizational Budget Threshold

The applicant's operational budget must be at least two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the requested program budget. For example, if requesting \$55,000 in funding, the organization's annual operating budget must be at least \$165,000. Organizations that do not meet this threshold must secure a fiscal sponsor that satisfies this requirement or request a smaller grant amount that aligns with the 2/3's calculation. Applications that meet this budget threshold will progress through our applications review process.

Fiscal Sponsorship

For organizations/collaboratives using a fiscal sponsor, applications must be submitted by the fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must meet the application's eligibility criteria (excluding being Georgia-based) and provide all required financial documents. Additionally, they must provide a signed copy of the fiscal sponsorship agreement between their organization and the organization implementing the program.

Only one application can be submitted per organization. Organizations can, however, be listed as partners or subcontractors on multiple applications submitted by peers.



Application Review Process

Applications must be submitted online using the [SmartSimple](#) portal and must be received by 12 Noon ET on June 5, 2026. Detailed instructions on accessing and using SmartSimple can be found [here](#) and on our website.

The Initiative has engaged a committee of peers to review each application through the following criteria:

- 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?

Applications will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of this RFA. All applications will be considered confidential. Only those applications that meet the criteria described will be given consideration. Submission of an application in no way guarantees procurement.

Georgia Health Initiative reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all applications submitted
- Request additional information from any or all applicants
- Conduct discussions with applicants to ensure full understanding
- Negotiate modifications to an application prior to making final decisions
- Approve subcontractors proposed or used by applicants in carrying out the work

Additional Information and Guidance

Please note that your organization may use this grant to pay for only non-lobbying activities, as defined under the IRS rules for section 501(c)(3) foundations. Allowable activities include campaigns to educate the public, influence public policy, or influence executive branch regulations, rules or actions. Efforts to influence legislation are permissible as long as they do not include communications to legislators or their staff that reflect a view on legislation; communications to the public about legislation that include an IRS-defined “call to action”; or other efforts to influence legislation that the IRS treats as “lobbying.” Grantees may use funds from other sources to conduct lobbying, to the extent allowed by law. [Organizations receiving grants under this RFA will be required to participate in an Initiative sponsored and hosted training session on these requirements.](#)

Guidance on what is considered lobbying can be found in [this resource from Alliance for Justice](#)

Available at:

<https://afj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/PRACTICAL-GUIDANCE-GA-Lobbying-2022-2.pdf>

Contact

If you have questions about the content of this application, please contact Akil Reynolds, Programmatic Partnerships Manager, at akil@georgiahealthinitiative.org or 404-719-5885.

For questions about the online submission process, please contact Rochelle Heard, Program Administration Manager, at rochelle@georgiahealthinitiative.org or 404-596-7916.