Pilot Projects to Integrate Clinical Heat Guidance into Community Health Centers

Request for Proposals

Issued by The National Center for Farmworker Health

Introduction:

Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S., causing more than three times the number of deaths in 2024 compared to other weather-related fatalities (1). In April 2024, as part of an agency priority on heat and health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released guidance to help reduce the impact of heat on human health for clinicians to use with their patients, particularly those at increased risk from heat, including children with asthma, pregnant women, and adults with cardiovascular disease, and for the public. The intended users of the guidance are front-line clinicians practicing at Community Health Centers (CHCs) across the U.S.

Previous evaluative work found that dissemination and uptake of these tools remain low, and that while CHCs often conduct some heat-related outreach, they face challenges to adapting a systematic, clinically informed heat response. Integrating these tools into clinical workflows may increase their use during patient visits to health centers, and cross-sector partnerships, including broad public health campaigns, are needed to disseminate heat guidance to clinicians and the public.

The goal of this project is to identify and pilot CHC interventions designed to implement standardized screening and clinical guidance tools, including use of medical and non-medical risk factors in identifying populations at risk of heat-related health harms, providing preventative guidance specific to patient circumstances, developing partnerships for heat-related referrals and awareness campaigns, and tracking intervention populations to identify potential outcomes

Funding Availability and Application deadline:

Three pilot projects will be selected. Project budgets should not exceed $30,000.

The application period is open from November 5th to December 31st, 2026.

Scope of Work (SOW):

- Complete assessment and intervention planning process with NCFH
- Pilot a heat intervention at your CHC during the 2027 heat season
- Participate in evaluation of design, implementation, and impact of pilot activities
- If applicable, share findings at conferences, webinars, etc.

Eligibility:

- Community Health Center
- Faced extreme heat risk (relative to local geography) in the last 2 years
- Has the capacity to pilot heat intervention in April-June of the 2027 heat season, and provide diverse staff with time to participate in the intervention planning, design, and evaluation process

Note: These projects are focused on all patients served by the CHC, not just farmworkers. It is not necessary to serve farmworkers to receive pilot funding, and no prioritization is given to farmworker-serving CHCs.

Proposal Requirements:

Proposals must detail the introduction of a new component of a heat intervention for this health center. This could include a completely novel intervention or an addition to or improvement of an existing intervention. Heat interventions must go beyond general outreach and/or flyer or curriculum development and aim to integrate heat screening and/or clinical guidance to deliver patient- or condition-specific heat guidance. Priority will be given to proposals that incorporate or adapt CDC Clinical Heat Guidance resources, or other standardized screenings, clinical guidance, or resources.

Potential intervention examples include (but are not limited to):

- Plans to integrate heat screening into individual patient visits and document results in EMR
- Emergency heat outreach systems to alert patients of extreme heat

- Collaborative partnerships for education, referrals, and workplace improvements to mitigate the effects of heat

No more than one project will be selected for a single CHC, but each CHC is welcome to submit more than one proposal.

Selection Criteria:

- The project describes a novel intervention or a novel aspect of an existing intervention.
- The intervention is integrated into a broad environmental health approach, including a focus on air pollution and asthma, access to safe water, and exposure to lead or heavy metals.
- The intervention enhances the CHC's ability to provide a systematic approach to heat through the integration of standardized tools or CDC Clinical Guidance for Heat Resources.

Priority will be given to projects serving rural populations and to participants who can demonstrate a broad environmental health approach. Applicants can use the Rural Health Information Hub's 'Am I Rural?" Tool to determine their classification.

Budget:

Three projects will be selected, up to $30,000 each.

Detailed line-item budget is required with application. Cost categories can include personnel (include salary and contractors here), fringe, supplies, travel, and other.

Funds cannot be used to support:

- Lobbying efforts
- Food and meals
- Equipment purchases (over $10,000)
- Gun control promotion
- Needle exchange programs

Indirect costs may be included in your budget, up to 15% of the total direct costs.

Proposed budgets must align with the Budget Preparation Guidelines from the CDC's Office of Financial Resources.

Use this NCFH budget template when preparing your budget.

Tracking and Reporting:

All selected applicants must complete the following:

- Orientation/Planning meeting with NCFH to complete initial assessment
- Detailed intervention and evaluation plan (created with support from NCFH)
- Track and implement intervention in accordance with evaluation plan
- Participate in evaluation following intervention

Timeline:

- RFP Open: November 5 – December 31st
- Projects selected: January – February 2027
- Pilot project ends: 06.30.27
- Reporting due: 07.15.27

Dates are approximate and may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Payment Distribution Schedule:

- Payment 1: Upon signing of contract
- Payment 2: Upon approval of intervention and evaluation plan
- Payment 3: Upon completion of all deliverables.

To Apply:

1. (Optional) Register for an information session on Wednesday, November 18th at 1pm to learn more: Meeting Registration - Zoom
2. Complete the application: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKGN3S2
3. Email your budget to rgittinger@ncfh.org with the subject line "2026 NCFH-CDC Heat and Health RFP"

Questions? Contact Rachel Gittinger, Evaluation Manager, at rgittinger@ncfh.org