

Building Healthier Communities Together

Samaritan Health Services
Hospital Social Accountability Grants
Request for Proposals

Released: Sept. 15, 2025

Proposals due: Nov. 7, 2025

Project period: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2026

These grants are administered by the SHS Community Health department on behalf of Samaritan's five hospitals. For more information, please email communityhealth@samhealth.org.

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Background and Purpose

At Samaritan Health Services, our mission is rooted in a commitment to enhance the health and well-being of the communities we serve. Through collaboration with local organizations, we aim to address key health needs and implement best practice initiatives that make a real difference. By investing in innovative projects and fostering strong partnerships, we strive to build a healthier, more vibrant future for everyone in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties.

Since 1997, Samaritan Health Services has been dedicated to improving community health and well-being through our Social Accountability Grants. These grants empower local organizations in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties to implement innovative, community-focused solutions that address local health challenges. By partnering with these organizations, we strive to foster a healthier, more equitable future for all residents, ensuring that every community member can thrive. These grants are awarded through a rigorous selection process overseen by the Community Benefit Advisory Committee and a dedicated Social Accountability Subcommittee. Priority is given to projects across the three-county region that meet the minimum requirements and demonstrate significant potential to impact community health.

The [Regional Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#) is a strategic framework designed to address the most pressing health needs in our region. Developed collaboratively by community stakeholders, the regional CHIP outlines key priorities and actionable strategies to improve health outcomes and equity. Aligning organizational priorities with the CHIP helps leverage resources, foster partnerships, and create a unified approach to building healthier communities. This alignment not only enhances the impact of individual initiatives but also ensures that efforts are cohesive and sustainable across the region.

Key Details

Funding levels

Applicants can request one of the following funding levels: \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000, or \$50,000. Projects will be funded for one year. Funding decisions will be made by a single review process to identify projects with the most potential to impact community health in the region. A total of \$200,000 will be awarded across Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties.

Timeline

- RFP release: Monday, Sept. 15, 2025
- Optional information session: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, 3-4 pm via Microsoft Teams (email communityhealth@samhealth.org for meeting invite)
- Application deadline: Friday, Nov. 7, 2025 at 11:59pm
- Award notification: Friday, Dec. 12, 2025
- Project period: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2026

Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants meet the following criteria:

- Governmental entities, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, and coalitions operating in Linn, Benton and/or Lincoln counties that serve residents of Linn, Benton and/or Lincoln counties.
- Organizations cannot be exclusively dedicated to advocacy, though advocacy can be a component of their functions.
- Organizations have the capacity to report key data, including the number of participants served, number of services provided, demographic data, progress toward stated outcomes, budget narrative, stories highlighting impact, and project-specific metrics as applicable.

Ineligible applicants include:

- Nationally recognized service organizations (e.g., Rotary, Lions), unless part of a community coalition.

Funds cannot be used for:

- Programs or events where SHS-affiliated programs/services are direct beneficiaries (projects may directly benefit SHS patients, but not SHS employees).
- Capital construction, vehicles, or renovation projects.
- Event or award sponsorships, political campaigns, religious purposes, and private individuals.

Proposal components

1. Proposal document (use Word template, “2026 Social Accountability Proposal Template”; submit in Word format, less than 8 pages total, 12 point font, double spaced)
2. Budget (use Excel template, “2026 Social Accountability Budget Template”)

Proposal submission

Email communityhealth@samhealth.org with subject line “Proposal submission.” Submissions should include the proposal document (in Word format) and the project budget (in Excel format).

Areas of Focus

Regional CHIP priority areas

To be considered for a Social Accountability Grant, proposals must align with the strategies outlined in the [Regional Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#). Specifically, proposals should focus on one or more of the following areas:

Access to Affordable Housing

Support initiatives that improve housing stability and access to safe, affordable housing.

Example: Community land trusts or housing cooperatives that provide affordable housing options can help enhance community well-being.

Access to Quality Care

Fund programs that improve access to essential services.

Example: Community health worker programs that connect residents to local resources and services can positively impact health outcomes.

Behavioral Health

Support initiatives that enhance mental and emotional well-being.

Example: Community centers offering free or low-cost mental health workshops and peer support groups can improve community resilience.

Inclusion, Diversity, Anti-Racism, and Equity

Implement programs that foster a more inclusive community.

Example: Initiatives that provide diversity and anti-racism training for community leaders and organizations can help create a more equitable environment.

Special consideration areas

We are particularly interested in funding projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Provide transportation services to/from hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, or other care facilities.
- b) Language access and support initiatives that improve access to healthcare for non-English speaking populations.
- c) Primarily focus on serving people living in Linn and/or Lincoln counties (as informed by Samaritan's 2025 system goal of improving [County Health Rankings](#) in our service area, and the 2025 scores for Population Health/Wellbeing and Community Conditions for [Linn](#), [Benton](#) and [Lincoln](#) counties).

The SHS Community Health team is available to answer questions about potential projects, please email communityhealth@samhealth.org.

Evaluation of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by the Social Accountability Subcommittee of the Community Benefit Advisory Committee. The rubric below will be used to create a preliminary ranking of proposals. Funding decisions will be made by consensus after committee discussion.

Criterion	Weight
Alignment with regional CHIP	20%
Feasibility and clarity of project	20%
Measurable outcomes and impact	20%
Budget justification and cost-effectiveness	20%
Project addresses local community need	20%
Special consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation - Language access - Primary service area is Linn and/or Lincoln County 	

For Awarded Projects

Funding distribution

Half of project funding will be distributed in January 2026; the second half of funding will be distributed in July 2026, following submission of the mid-year progress report.

Reporting requirements

Mid-Year Progress Report: Due by July 15, 2026. This report should detail progress made toward project goals, the number of participants served, services provided, and any challenges encountered.

Annual Report: Due by January 15, 2027. This comprehensive report should include a summary of the project's outcomes, detailed demographic data, a budget narrative, stories highlighting the impact, and an evaluation of progress toward stated objectives.