

Florida Blue Foundation 2022 Sapphire Awards Competition

Deadline to apply is October 14, 2021, before 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Foundation's **definition of Health Equity**?

A: Health Equity Goal: To improve health equity to ensure that families and community members have both the access and opportunity to attain full health potential and are not disadvantaged due to environmental, economic, and social circumstance.

Target Issues

- Access to health and health care for underserved populations
- Provider awareness and education around the health inequity of patients
- Access to health education

For purposes of this program, *Health Equity means when every person has achieved the opportunity to "attain his or her full health potential" and no one is "disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances."

*CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)

Q: May we submit **multiple nominations**?

A: An organization may submit only one nomination application per category. The three categories are: Individual, Organization, Program. Please refer to the guidelines document posted to the Foundation's website for more information. This guidance applies to universities, colleges, hospitals and other organizations that may have multiple departments. We will accept only one nomination per category for the university, college, etc. Please coordinate with the development office for the organization or the organization's foundation to determine which nomination to submit.

Q: We have **multiple areas** at my university interested in applying for the award. Can we have multiple areas, such as nursing, engineering, or medicine, apply for their impact on health equity?

A: An organization may submit only one nomination application per category (Individual, Organization, Program). Please refer to the guidelines document posted to the Foundation's website for more information. We will accept only one nomination per category for the university, college, etc. Please coordinate with the development office for the organization or the organization's foundation to determine which nomination to submit.

Q: Are there any examples or more details on the required **references**?

A: The persons submitting the references should provide information from their personal and professional experiences with the organization. The responses should support the nomination and should include information that addresses the criteria within the nomination. Spouses and family members of the nominated individual/organization/program may not be references nor nominators. See the guidelines document on the Foundation's website for other exemptions.

Q: My organization has **affiliates** located throughout Florida. The affiliates and the headquarters use the same Federal Employer Tax Identification Number (FEIN). May we submit nomination applications from several of our affiliates?

- A: We will accept only one nomination per category for the organization's FEIN. Consider submitting one nomination for the work of several of your affiliates.
- Q: Are we eligible to submit a nomination if our headquarters is **incorporated in another state**? Our "program" has been implemented in Florida since 2008 and is delivered in approximately 20 counties in Florida via 12 local network partners who are all incorporated in Florida.
- A: One of the organizations incorporated in Florida should be the nominator and not the national organization that is not incorporated in Florida.
- Q: Many years ago, I started an **application but did not submit**. May I access it and update it?
- A: Every year, the focus of the awards changes, and so do the nomination applications. You may not use the draft application you started in the past for the 2022 competition.
- Q: My organization was given an "**honorable mention**" award many years ago. Can we be nominated for the 2022 award?
- A: Yes, organizations, programs and individuals that received an award that is not "winner" can be nominated in the 2022 awards competition.
- Q: My organization has submitted applications in the past and has not been selected. Can you provide **feedback** as to why we were not selected?
- A: Each year, the focus and criteria change, and, therefore, the nomination applications change. And the pool of applicants change for this competitive program. Because of these changes, providing feedback on a specific nomination application may not prove beneficial for any future submissions. Please review the guidelines and criteria carefully. Successful applicants provide clear qualitative and quantitative data and evidence of impact and outcomes as well as documentation that supports excellence and innovation in the criteria.
- Q: Is there a recording of the **application clarification webinar**?
- A: Unfortunately, there was a technical issue, and the webinar was not recorded. Please visit the Foundation's website for the guidelines and link to the application. Please send any questions you may have to floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com.
- Q: Is it possible to get a **PDF or Word version** of the nomination applications?
- A: Once you have passed the eligibility criteria and are in the application, there is the **PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION** button that allows you to download and print the nomination application before you begin entering information, to review the information provided, and for your files as a copy of the submitted application.
- Q: We have a **grant** from Florida Blue Foundation. Is my organization eligible for a Sapphire Award?
- A: Current or former grantees and new applicants for open funding opportunities are eligible to submit nomination applications if they meet the criteria of the Sapphire Awards competition.
- Q: For a particular program to be nominated, the application requires a minimum of **three years in operation**. How is this defined? I'm thinking of nominating a program that has only been in formal operation for two years but the groundwork to establish it began four years ago. Assuming I can provide detailed information on this groundwork, including objectives and measurable progress, would this satisfy the three-year requirement?
- A: The program must be in operation -- providing services whose impacts can be measured -- for a minimum of three years. Therefore, the proposed program would not be eligible for consideration. The planning timeframe cannot be included in the time of operation.

The same applies to **five-year** requirement for an organization. The organization must be providing services whose impacts can be measured for five years. The planning timeframe cannot be included in the time of operation.

Q: I'm having **difficulty logging in**. How do I get help?

A: If you are having technical difficulties, please send an email to floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com. Please provide your name, organization, phone number, and detailed information about your issue. The grants administrator will connect with you as soon as possible.

Q: The guidelines seem to allow a staff member (e.g., executive director, operations director, etc.) to serve as the "**nominator**." Must the two persons serving as the **references** be external to our organization and not staff?

A: The nominator can be a staff person. The references must be external to the organization and can include a board member, client, patient, representative of a collaborating partner, funder, among others, except family members. See the guidelines document on the Foundation's website for other exemptions.

Remember to use Chrome as the browser to ensure the best experience.

We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date and time. Uploading the attachments may take some time. As the deadline approaches, and more people are in the system, the system slows down because of the demand.

Please send your questions to floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com.

Visit the Foundation's website, www.floridablue.com, for guidelines and the link to the application.