



## **Your Shot Texas: the Texas Equitable Vaccine Uptake Fund: May 2022 Update**

### **CURRENT STATUS**

As of early May, 60% of the total population of Texas is fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Experts place a community vaccination rate goal at 75-90% for population immunity. Even when controlling for incomplete data, vaccination rates in rural areas as well as for Hispanic/Latino and Black residents in Texas lag relative to their total population numbers.

Although the COVID-19 vaccine supply is readily available, some communities face barriers in accessing the vaccine and people remain hesitant to get vaccinated. The reasons for the hesitancy vary across groups including lack of facts about the vaccine, historical mistrust of the healthcare system or government, and politicization of the pandemic. Continuing news about the variants of COVID-19 elevates concern about the risk to the population, especially for the unvaccinated.

We know that communities of color and other marginalized groups have suffered disproportionately and continue to be at greater risk for adverse health and economic impacts from the pandemic. While government and private providers play a critical role in vaccine uptake, we know that trusting relationships are critical to increasing access and overcoming hesitancy. Many of these trusted actors need strengthened linkages with health providers and/or cannot accept government funding to support their vaccine uptake activities. This situation leaves a critical gap for private philanthropy to fill.

### **ABOUT THE FUND**

Philanthropy has played a key role in supporting communities during the pandemic. Inspired by conversations with Grantmakers in Health, a group of Texas foundations identified an equity-focused need in which Texas philanthropies can play an important role.

#### ***Reducing Inequities in the Uptake of Vaccines***

The **Your Shot Texas - Texas Equitable Vaccine Uptake Fund** (the Fund) provides grant dollars to community-facing groups around the state to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and barriers to access. Efforts focus on at-risk and historically marginalized populations, including people of color and under-resourced rural and urban communities. Intended grantees of the Fund are the organizations with existing relationships in these communities. Grants support outreach and engagement activities meant to directly result in an increase of vaccination rates among the people whom the organizations serve.

#### ***Eligible Grantee Organizations***

Tax exempt organizations, primarily 501(c)(3) non-profits, and fiscal sponsors for organizations that may be smaller are eligible for these grants. The Fund seeks to support organizations with existing connections to the target communities. The Fund is not intended to be a source for pass-through

funding for other organizations to re-grant, except for agencies working in a strategic collaboration and sharing dollars in alignment with the goals of this Fund.

### **Timing**

With the ongoing risk of new variants of the virus and the vaccine is available to nearly everyone, time is of the essence. The vaccine approval for children ages 5 to 11 and the anticipated approval for children under 5 years old have increased the need for ongoing outreach. The Fund launched in April 2021 with the first two rounds of grants made in May 2021 and September 2021. A third round of funding was awarded in February 2022.

The Fund has deployed all of its grant dollars and plans to remain active through the fall of 2022.

### **Geography**

The service area is the State of Texas. The Fund accommodates the geographic limitations of participating funders.

### **Grant Size**

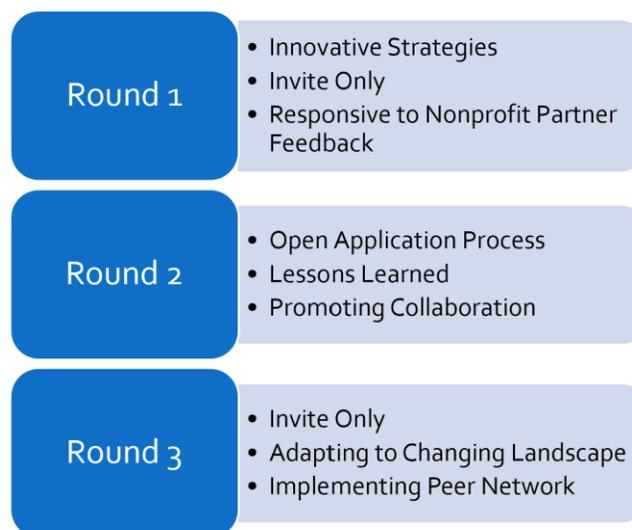
The Fund offers a wide range of grant awards, aiming to remain responsive to the local needs and strategies of groups carrying out the work at the grassroots level. Round 1 Awards ranged from \$12,000 to \$40,000 per organization. Round 2 & Round 3 set funding caps at \$50,000 for individual organizations and up to \$150,000 for collaborative proposals.

### **Reporting & Learning**

The Fund intentionally captures the outputs and outcomes of grantee activities, in addition to lessons learned. The fund administrator will issue two interim reports and a final Fund Impact Report. These will be shared with all funders who contribute to the Fund.

### **Grants & Grantees**

Combined, \$3.3 million was awarded through 54 grants. A total of 35 grantees received awards and 188 organizations were supported through the collaborative partnerships of the grantees. The three grant rounds varied to adapt the focus, speed, and process to the context of the pandemic, vaccination availability and community trends.



## LEADERSHIP

A Governing Committee for the Fund sets the direction, priorities, and grantmaking strategy. Arnold Ventures, Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF), the Meadows Foundation and Methodist Healthcare Ministries (MHM) comprise the current members of the Governing Committee.

A Grants Review Committee evaluates grant applications and makes recommendations for funding. Representatives of participating funders comprise its membership.

The Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF) serves as the fund administrator. GHCF receives funds from participating funders, manages the grantmaking process from solicitation of applications to close-out of completed grants, and supports the Governing and Grants Review Committees.

Funders that make a significant contribution to the Fund, relative to their annual grantmaking, are eligible to serve on the Governing Committee. Funders contributing \$100,000 or more may appoint a representative to the Grants Review Committee.

## PARTICIPATING FUNDERS

The Fund is grateful to the donors listed below for their participation in the Your Shot Texas Fund:

Episcopal Health Foundation  
Meadows Foundation  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries

Arnold Ventures  
Cullen Foundation  
Cullen Trust for Health Care  
Houston Endowment  
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health  
Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation

Lyda Hill Philanthropies  
The Rockwell Fund, Inc.  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
St. David's Foundation  
Southwestern Medical Foundation  
Friends of the Your Shot Texas Fund &  
Anonymous Donors

For further information, please see the website for the Fund at <http://bit.ly/YourShotTexas> or contact:

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<b>GRANTEES</b>		
Abounding Prosperity Acts of Hope Center Area Health Education Center of the Mid Rio Grande Border Area of Texas, Inc. Ark-Tex Council of Governments Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans Back to Eden Bexar County Community Health Collaborative BOAT PEOPLE SOS-Houston Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston Brazoria County Dream Center City Equity USA	Community Family Centers Culture of Health-Advancing Together (CHAT) East Texas Immigrant Advocacy and Resource Center Easter Seals of Greater Houston Eikon Church El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission Greater Longview United Way Gulf Coast Leadership Council Hispanic Leadership and Management Foundation Hope Disaster Recovery and TXCDR Houston in Action Houston: reVision La Union del Pueblo Entero	Mi Familia Vota Education Fund ProSalud Ronald McDonald House Foundation of Greater Houston Sewa International Tarleton State University Foundation Texas Organizing Project Education Fund The Immunization Partnership Together Austin United Way of Lamar County United Way of Midland County Waco Housing Opportunity Corporation