



Nature, Culture, and Human Health (NCH2) Catalyst Seed Grants

--Planning Grants of \$2,500-5,000

--Due on February 22, 2023

--Awards granted at the end of March, 2023

Nature, Culture, and Human Health (NCH2) Mission

To establish that access to nature---clean air, clean water, and welcoming, safe nature spaces---is an essential determinant of health and well-being. NCH2 connects and coordinates people and organizations, as well as deepens the understanding of the evidence needed, to support the mutual impacts of nature and human health. These connections are vital to our region's resilience. As our region faces ongoing challenges from a rapidly changing climate, land and habitat disruption from overdevelopment, and inequitable access to nature spaces, we spark community-shaped collaborations to build community resilience, specifically in areas that have experienced disinvestment and are most vulnerable to climate change.

Thank you for your interest in applying for the first round of NCH2 Catalyst Seed Grants! And for joining the NCH2 Community. Please find a description of this opportunity and the grant application process.

Catalyst Seed Grant Description: NCH2 intends to spark new collaborations, or new ideas within an existing collaboration, that embrace the [Triple Aim Values](#) and build capacity to apply for funding to implement the planned project. To foster this goal, grants will be made to fund **planning and development** of a project idea. Each awardee will use funds to explore and create projects with their partnering organizations that address each [Aim](#):

- 1) Improving [community health](#),
- 2) [Caring for nearby land](#) and habitats,
- 3) Mending [environmental justice](#) areas and/or improving [equitable](#) access and opportunities to engage in nature.

Who Can Apply: Organizations within the [Chicago Metropolitan Statistical area](#) may apply. Applications must include a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization to serve as the recipient and administrator of funds. This fiscal agent can be the lead applicant or another collaborator.

Use of Funds (planning grants of \$2,500 – 5,000): Funds are to be used to *plan a project* and cover costs typically not supported by grants, including transportation, child or elder care, facilitation, and refreshments. The award timeframe will be brief (no more than 6 months). Each application will submit a budget itemizing costs and a budget narrative.

Letters of Support: Applications should include a letter of support from each collaborator.

Review Process: NCH2 will grant awards after review by an independent committee. Criteria will include adherence to the Triple Aim Values, quality of community engagement, potential for future collaboration, community impact, and realistic budget. Grants will be awarded by the end of March, 2023.

End of Award Reporting: At the end of the award period, the applicant(s) must submit a brief narrative of the planning process, how funds were spent, and how they plan to work with NCH2 staff, as well as other sources, to identify necessary funding sources to further develop and implement the planned project.

Any Questions? We will host our first webinar about the Catalyst Grant process and the Triple Aim after the RFP is published January 5th.

January 11th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Register for the first one:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nch2-seed-catalyst-and-national-park-service-rivers-trails-and-community-tickets-490772071477>

If those times do not work, please contact Laura Derks (laura.derks@northwestern.edu) to set up a separate time for specific guidance on your idea.