



IMMUNIZE KANSAS KIDS

**Immunize Kansas Kids  
Invitation for Quality Improvement Projects in the Area of Immunizations  
Summer 2011**

**Purpose**

The “Quality Improvement Projects in the Area of Immunizations” is a call for proposals from the Immunize Kansas Kids (IKK) coalition, which supports innovative, collaborative, and sustainable methods to increase age-appropriate immunization rates for Kansas children. IKK seeks to support local quality improvement activities to advance evidence-based immunization practices. Grants will be awarded to selected immunization providers to undertake local initiatives to improve the quality of immunization practices in Kansas.

**Total Awards**

- Up to 10 projects will be awarded in this round of funding.
- Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each and must be completed within 12 months.

**Eligibility Criteria (page 3)**

- State or local public health agencies;
- Public health regions; or,
- Private immunization providers.

Complete information on eligibility criteria starts on page 3.

**Key Date and Deadlines:**

**July 18, 2011**—Web-based conference call for potential applicants.

**August 1, 2011**—Start date for submission of proposals.

**December 31, 2011**—Last date to submit proposals.

Proposals will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis, and will be reviewed and either approved or rejected within 30 days from the date they are submitted.

**How to Apply**

Proposal should be sent electronically to [immunize@khi.org](mailto:immunize@khi.org). Complete information on how to apply can be found starting on page 5.

## Background

Immunize Kansas Kids (IKK) is a partnership project between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), the Kansas Health Foundation (the project's funder) and dozens of stakeholder organizations that aims to protect every Kansas child from vaccine-preventable diseases. Launched in 2005, the IKK initiative was a response to historically low immunization coverage rates among children in Kansas. Between 2006 and 2007, more than 30 organizations joined together to form a steering committee, working to produce an action plan to raise and sustain immunization rates among children to 90 percent, a goal proposed by Healthy People 2010. In March 2008, after several meetings, research activities, effort from four work groups, and the support of national experts, IKK published an action plan that set five major goals:

1. Improve access to timely immunizations for children.
2. Expand and support the implementation of a state immunization registry.
3. Promote policies, regulations and environmental changes to increase immunization rates.
4. Increase community and parental demand for immunization services.
5. Promote research and evaluation activities to clarify aspects likely to affect the success of immunization activities in the state.

More information on the IKK project and activities can be found at [www.immunizekansaskids.org](http://www.immunizekansaskids.org).

## Objectives

The selected projects will:

- Utilize the Institute for Healthcare Quality's model for improvement (<http://www.ihq.org/IHQ/Topics/Improvement/ImprovementMethods/HowToImprove/>). This model is based on mini-collaborative, rapid change projects. This model has been used successfully by hundreds of health care organizations in many countries to improve different health care processes and outcomes. The model has two parts:
  - Three fundamental questions, which can be addressed in any order: What are we trying to accomplish? How will we know that a change is an improvement? What changes can we make that will result in an improvement?
  - The Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle to test and implement changes in real work settings. The PDSA cycle guides the test on a small scale of a change to determine if the change is an improvement.<sup>1</sup>
- Directly address an issue that poses a barrier to the effective delivery of immunization services (e.g., long waiting lists, poor patient satisfaction, ineffective workflow at immunization site, lack of reminders and recalls for past due immunizations, etc.);
- Incorporate promising and evidence-based practices or policies for the delivery of immunization services. Interested applicants are encouraged in particular to review the results of the systematic reviews conducted by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/vaccines/index.html>).

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<sup>1</sup> The PDSA cycle is also referred to as Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA).

- Include measurable objectives, and methods for evaluating changes that occur as a result of the project. Applicants are expected to implement small-scale projects (usually within their own clinical setting) and to include methods to measure and report the results of their projects.

### **Technical Assistance**

Staff at KHI will be available to provide some technical assistance (TA) during the implementation of the project.

Possible areas for TA include:

- The application of quality improvement (QI) tools and methods.
- How to structure a successful PDSA cycle.
- How to measure the results of a proposed intervention.

However, grantees will be expected to be able to independently implement all the activities that they propose. For example, if focus groups are included in a proposal, KHI staff could be available to provide advice on the appropriateness of using a focus group to achieve the specific goals of the proposal or the composition of the group's participants. The grantee, on the other hand, would be expected to implement all the stages involved in the focus group activity (e.g., recruitment of participants, facilitation of the discussion, analysis and reporting of the results).

A conference call and Webinar for potential applicants will be hosted on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 12:00 PM CDT. To join the audio portion interested parties can call 1-877-481-6970 and enter the conference number \*2575178\* (including the \* before and after the number). To join the Web portion, go to <http://kalhd.readytalk.com/>. Enter code 2718391.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include:

- Private or government entities who are:
  - (A) directly involved in the delivery of immunization services to children in Kansas, such as primary care clinics or local health departments; or
  - (B) involved in the coordination and support of such services, such as local health departments conducting assessments of immunization practices among clinics within their jurisdiction.
- Kansas public health regions established through inter-local agreements among multiple local health departments. We strongly encourage public health preparedness regions to apply.

### **Budget and Use of Grant Funds**

IKK will award funding to support approved projects. In general, grants will range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per proposal, for projects lasting between 6 and 12 months. In the case of large-scale, complex projects, or projects involving multiple entities (e.g., a network of clinics, or a public health region), funding at a higher level may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funds may be used to cover direct and personnel costs only – no indirect costs or expenses for infrastructure development (e.g., equipment maintenance, office space rental fees, software, computers, etc.) are allowed. Funds also cannot be used to subsidize individuals for the cost of their health care, including payment of vaccines.

### **Selection Criteria:**

All proposals will be screened for eligibility and then assessed by the IKK project management committee and reviewers. Selection will be based on the following: criteria:

- The extent to which the applicant clearly identifies the problem or barrier to be addressed.
- The extent to which the applicant plans to use the PDSA cycle to identify the root causes of the problem, develop possible solutions, implement the solutions on a small scale, monitor the results, and expand the solutions to a larger scale.
- The extent to which the application includes a plan to measure effectively the results of the intervention.
- The potential impact and generalizability of the initiative proposed.

### **Application Process**

Proposals must be submitted electronically, using a template that will be provided by KHI, to: [immunize@khi.org](mailto:immunize@khi.org). Interested applicants can request the proposal template by sending a request to [immunize@khi.org](mailto:immunize@khi.org). Proposals can be submitted starting on August 1, 2011 and no later than December 31, 2011. The subject line on the email submission should read: 2011-12 IKK QI Proposal. Upon receipt of a proposal, a confirmation e-mail will be send within 2 business days to acknowledge receipt.

Funding to support up to 10 proposals is currently available. Proposals will be considered on a first-come, first serve basis. Each applicant can submit more than one proposal, but not concurrently (that is, applicants cannot submit a second proposal while the first one is still being considered). If a proposal is not accepted, the applicant can then submit a new proposal. Only one proposal per entity will be funded through this funding cycle.

Applicants will be notified within one month from the date of submission about the result of their application.

### **Project Reporting Requirements**

At the end of their project, successful applicants will be required to submit a financial report describing how the IKK funds were used and a brief narrative report describing the results of the project. Templates for these reports will be provided by KHI.

### **Project Direction**

Project direction and technical assistance for the “Quality Improvement Projects in the Area of Immunizations” is provided by KHI:

Kansas Health Institute  
212 SW Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Topeka, KS, 66603  
[www.khi.org](http://www.khi.org)

Responsible staff members at KHI are:

- Gianfranco Pezzino, M.D., M.P.H. – project director
- Caitlin McMurtry – project manager

### **Resources**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Guide to Community Preventive Services:  
[www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's General Recommendations on Immunization:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6002a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr6002a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6002a1.htm?s_cid=rr6002a1_e)

Updated: 6-24-2011