



A Generous Life

Request for Proposals

Sector: Healthcare

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Background

The following Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued as part of Belmont University's *A Generous Life* course, in which students explore philanthropy, social innovation, and community impact by partnering directly with local organizations. As part of their applied learning experience, students researched community needs, conducted interviews with practitioners, and collaboratively designed this RFP to support local organizations addressing key issue areas.

Through this process, the students will serve as the grantmakers—reviewing proposals, developing evaluation criteria, and ultimately awarding one \$50,000 grant to a community partner whose healthcare sector project demonstrates strong alignment with the identified needs, a clear theory of change, and meaningful opportunities for student engagement.

This RFP reflects the students' academic learning, commitment to community partnership, and desire to invest in organizations advancing hope and flourishing in the Nashville area.

Healthcare Issue Area

Many communities in Nashville, including children, people experiencing poverty, elderly individuals, and immigrants, struggle to access both physical and mental healthcare. Class divide, age, and systemic inequality result in numerous barriers to quality services.

Healthcare Problem Statement

In Nashville, accessing vital healthcare services is a formidable task for individuals across their entire lives. From infancy to the final years of life, people are deprived of care due to financial limitations, lack of present services, and difficulty finding high-quality, inclusive providers. A longitudinal study of Tennessee seniors found a steady decline in dental visits over time, strongly correlating with reduced income and loss of employer-based insurance (Liu). The

study concluded that Tennessee's older adults are one of the most vulnerable groups for oral health neglect, emphasizing the need for targeted programs. Barriers often disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, leaving them with insufficient and substandard services. Presently, a diverse set of communities across Nashville cannot access primary care, emergency care, tertiary specialty care, and mental health services. This results in a lifetime of struggle, where circumstances connected to poverty and identity can mean that people never receive quality care (Rasmussen). Individuals of all ages experience stigma around finding mental health treatment in addition to disproportionate access (Ahuja). Though healthcare access is an expansive and complex issue, it is one that can be mitigated and minimized using targeted solutions.

Healthcare Theory of Change

If substantive barriers to healthcare are removed, such as limited transportation and hours of operation, financial inhibitors, or a lack of community awareness, then disenfranchised populations in Nashville and surrounding areas will have increased awareness and access to physical and mental health care providers and services, which will ultimately lead to a population that is more seen, cared for, and comfortable with health services across their lifespan in Nashville for years to come – developing an overall healthier population.

Healthcare Illustrative Indicators

Output:

- Number of target population members gained access to healthcare.
- Number of barriers to access decreased or were removed.

Outcome:

- Percent increase in the target population members' time spent with healthcare providers.

Impact:

- Increased number of people with overall health improvements due to grant-related outputs and outcomes.

Healthcare Tentative Budget Allocation

Please submit an illustrative budget indicating the breakdown of the portion of funds allocated to specific areas, such as:

Categories	Financial Estimate	Portion Estimate (%)
Supplies		
Research		
Marketing & Community Engagement		
Events		
Programs and Interventions		
Operating Expenses		
Other: _____		
Other: _____		
	Total: \$50,000	Total: 100%

Application Instructions

Please address each of the following sections in your written proposal (maximum 5 pages, excluding the cover information).

I. Organizational Background – 1 paragraph

Provide a brief overview of your organization, including mission, relevant experience, and capacity to implement the proposed project.

II. Theory of Change (adapted) – 1 paragraph

Adapt the illustrative theory of change included in the RFP to fit your organization's proposed project and intended impact.

III. Proposed Project Description – 1–2 paragraphs

Describe your proposed project, target populations, and any client eligibility criteria (if applicable). Explain how this project directly responds to the issue area identified in the RFP.

IV. Proposed Activity Interventions – up to 1 page

Outline the specific activities, programs, or interventions you intend to implement with the awarded funds. Bullet point format is acceptable.

Include details about how and by whom activities will be carried out, a brief project timeline, and key milestones.

V. *Use of Funds – up to 1 page*

Provide a concise budget table and narrative explaining how requested funds will be spent. Budgets may include costs related to program implementation, materials, community engagement, or other direct expenses essential to achieving project goals. Operating expenses may be included up to 15%, including salary and discretionary costs. Please describe any plans to sustain the project activities or impact after the grant period.

VI. *Opportunities for Student Engagement – 1 paragraph*

Include at least one meaningful way for a cohort of Belmont University students to participate in or contribute to the project during the spring 2026 semester. Examples may include:

- Engaging students in project implementation or community outreach activities
- Involving students in research, evaluation, or storytelling about project impact
- Collaborating with students on communications, marketing, or event coordination
- Co-developing materials, tools, or resources with student teams

VII. *Expected Outcomes and Impact – 1–2 paragraphs*

Clearly articulate the intended outcomes of your proposed activities. Describe how you will measure or assess success using qualitative and / or quantitative indicators.

→ Submit your finalized proposal at <https://form.jotform.com/253206402480144> by January 15.