



Request for Proposal

Birth Equity Mini-Grant Application

June 2023

ISSUED BY

The Kansas Birth Equity Network

Contact Information

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Birth Equity Mini Grants

Introduction & Background

As a result of your hard work and commitment to develop 5-year research agenda/solutions as well as the increase in Black Maternal and Infant Mortality, The Kansas Birth Equity Network was awarded funds that are to be allocated in the form of mini-grants to provide support to address gaps in maternal, paternal, and infant health and wellbeing. The KBEN Initiative intends to fund local community organizations or groups who are members active members of KBEN, attend at least 70 percent of meetings. These mini grants will focus on supporting activities to help moms, dads, and infants in your community survive and thrive. KBEN encourages collaboration with community members and other stakeholders (i.e., health departments, doctor offices, hospitals, etc.).

The Kansas Birth Equity Network Research agenda identified priorities including hypertension and preeclampsia, mental health, access to care, coordination of care, and social determinants of health and the toll that the COVID pandemic has taken on Black communities.

Figure 1. [Research Agenda](#)



Overview of Systems Research Questions

Healthcare Systems Research Questions

1. How can we collaborate with community organizations to provide a provider expectation checklist?
2. What methods exist and/or can be developed for monitoring progress toward eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare?
3. How do we ensure that bias & anti-racism training (KBEN training) is a part of the curriculum and continuing education for all members of the healthcare team?
4. What factors do providers consider when making decisions and how can providers translate the decisions made to patients to reduce bias and racism?
5. What tools exist and/or can be developed to improve provider/patient communication?
6. What tools exist and/or can be developed to improve awareness of COVID + Pregnancy?
7. What tools exist and/or can be developed to improve awareness of COVID + Parenting?



Project Requirements and Expectations

The Kansas Birth Equity Network will award mini grants, with an annual limit of one application of up to \$3,000 to applicants that proposed projects related to the research agenda, demonstrate a collaboration with at least two KBEN members, and can show a clear and strong synergy with existing programs serving those populations. These mini-grants will focus on supporting activities to help moms, dads, and infants in your community survive and thrive. The mini awards will be awarded on a rolling basis with at least three projects funded each quarter beginning June 15, 2023. Letters of Intent/Proposal ideas can be submitted on a rolling basis. Full proposals for June funding are due on May 22, 5pm CST.

Awarded mini grants could provide beneficiaries with a broad range of supplies and activities to support improvements in quality of life and healthy and productive lifestyles; which may include, but are not limited to:

- Hypertensive Disorders
- Doula care and access to doula care
- Maternal and Child Health Educational and Informational programs
- Access to equitable care that supports behavior change
- Supplies or services that might improve an individual's ability to function in the community and become self-sufficient, etc.

Total Awards

All applicants should request the amount of funding needed to complete the proposed project or task to disseminate educational information to the identified priority communities. Grant Period should be a maximum 18 months. We plan to fund projects or provide funding to disseminate information to the community.

- **Level 1 Supplies/Meeting Support: up to \$500**
- **Level 2 Small Community Project: up to \$1,000**
- **Level 3: Community Project: up to \$2,000**
- **Level 4: Large Scale Community or Research Project: up to \$3,000**

Eligibility and Contract Terms

Eligibility

Applications will be reviewed and must meet the following basic eligibility requirements to be considered:

- Applicant is an organization or an individual who is currently a KBEN member and attends 70% of meetings*
- Applicant proposal meets description criteria found in Project Description and adheres to evaluation criteria*

EXPECTATIONS FOR GRANTEES

KBEN highly values peer learning, as well as dissemination of research to inform policy and other decision-making. The following are expectations of all KBEN-funded grantees:

- Attend a kick-off meeting for all funded projects
- Participate in periodic progress check-ins and technical assistance calls throughout the grant period; present findings to community in which the project is conducted; and submit final reports.
- Attend the Birth Equity Annual Summit and present findings at the Birth Equity Annual Summit or Black Maternal Health Week Event
- Work with the KBEN staff to publish or disseminate findings
- Attend up to four KBEN bi-monthly meetings
- Build appropriate funds and time into the project budget and timeline for stakeholder engagement, conferences, meetings, and other forms of dissemination, including after analyses are complete if applicable.
- Collaborate with the other KBEN members to share and/or present findings to and engage stakeholders both within the community.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

The Kansas Birth Equity Network is housed at the Department of Population Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. The purpose of this network is to create birth equity in Kansas through training, research, healthcare, and advocacy.

Email: kben@kumc.edu

Research Agenda:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qbmmw7ndIuA2YrFGh7JKA3TXb9C1iB4r/view?usp=sharing>.

Website: <https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/academics/departments/population-health/research/kansas-birth-equity-network.html>

Please direct questions about the program, selection criteria, or application content to the KBEN staff. Email is the preferred method of contact. Please use this link to submit your application:

<https://redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=Y4KJKDMJ7XTKFYCK>.

Responsible staff members are:

- Sharla Smith, PhD, Director
- Oluoma Obi, Project Director
- Erin Attebery, Research Associate-Grants Manager
- Bernard Schuster, Research Associate