

FAQs

General

- **What is the Building Bridges Learning Community?** The Learning Community brings together teams of public health and community partners who want to strengthen how they work together. Through shared learning, funding, and expert and peer support, teams will build skills, deepen trust, and create plans to sustain and grow their partnerships beyond the project period.
- **Where can I learn more about the Building Bridges project?** The *Building Bridges: Cultivating Meaningful Cross-sectoral and Community Partnerships to Improve Health* project aims to strengthen partnerships between governmental public health, nonprofit, cross-sector, and community-based organizations to promote health, well-being, and health equity.

This work is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and supported by APHA's Center for Public Health Policy, the Alliance for the Public's Health, and Affiliate Affairs teams.

In its first year, APHA engaged with 72 organizations to learn and share best practices for establishing, building, and strengthening partnerships between governmental public health agencies and community-based organizations. Through a landscape scan, listening sessions, and a partner roundtable, APHA gathered insights from over 80 people. These insights informed the creation of the [Build & Bridge Library](#), a resource library designed to help public health professionals strengthen partnerships with community-based and cross-sector partners. It also informed the planning and development of the Building Bridges Learning Community.

- **Who can I contact if I have questions?** We are hosting a webinar to share findings from the first year of the Building Bridges Project and to launch the Learning Community on November 18th at 2pm ET. [Register and join us](#) to learn more and ask your questions. You can also attend our office hours, which are dedicated to application and project questions, on November 21st 2-3pm, and November 24th 3-4pm ET. [Register for the office hours](#). If you prefer, you can reach us anytime at phpolicycenter@apha.org

Application

- **Who is eligible to apply?** Each application must come from a joint team that includes one state, local, tribal, or territorial (STLT) health department and one community-based organization.
- **Can fiscally sponsored organizations apply?** Yes. Fiscally sponsored community organizations are eligible to apply as the community-based partner. Please include the name of your fiscal sponsor in the application.

- **Can a health department submit more than one application with different community partners?** No. Each STLT health department may submit only one application. We encourage departments to work with the community partner that best aligns with their goals for this opportunity.
- **What are the application requirements?** Applications must be submitted jointly by one STLT health department and one community-based organization. The community-based organization must be a registered 501(c)(3). Only one person will submit the application, but both partners must be listed as contacts and share a commitment to strengthening their partnership. All applications are due **December 16 at 11:59 pm.**
- **How many teams will be selected?** Up to 8 teams will be selected to participate in the Building Bridges Learning Community. Each selected team will receive \$10,000 in funding.

Learning Community Participation

- **What are the expectations for team co-leads?** Each team will identify two co-leads—one from the health department and one from the community-based organization. Co-leads are expected to:
 - Attend and actively participate in monthly sessions
 - Lead the development and implementation of the team's work plan
 - Maintain communication between partners and with the Building Bridges team
 - Help share lessons learned and successes with peers in the Learning Community
- **Will activities be virtual or in-person?** All sessions and activities for the Learning Community will be held virtually to make participation accessible for all teams, regardless of location. While participation is required for co-leads, other team members are welcome and encouraged to attend learning-based sessions to support team growth and collaboration.
- **What is the time commitment?** Co-leads can expect to spend about 2 to 6 hours each month participating in the Learning Community.
- **Is participation in monthly activities through the Learning Community mandatory?** Yes. Co-leads must actively participate in monthly sessions to remain part of the Learning Community and to receive funding. We understand that things come up, so if a co-lead cannot attend a session, another team member may participate on their behalf. Consistent engagement helps teams make the most of the shared learning and peer connections.