



## 2026 Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Mini-Grant Project

### *Year 5 Coalition Building and SDOH of Epilepsy Compilation (Y1-Y4: Food, Housing, Public Safety, Education, Rural Areas, Digital Inequities, etc.)*

The Multicultural Outreach Program of the Epilepsy Foundation (EF) invites Epilepsy Foundation affiliates and national partners of the Foundation's CDC Cooperative Agreement to implement mini-grant projects to connect more people living with epilepsy to social services to address social determinants of health, such as discrimination, public safety, civic injustices, and policing. In partnership, EF affiliates and multi-sector organizations may apply for one of ten (**10**) Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) mini grants in the amount of **\$10,000**. Funding is provided on a non-competitive basis through the Epilepsy Foundation's Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agreement number 1 NU58DP006965-05-00.

**Coalition building and strategic partnerships** are the noted skill for the fifth year of the current CDC Cooperative Agreement. Collaborations between epilepsy-related agencies and multi-sector organizations are required to be eligible for mini-grant funds. This year's funding may be utilized to support the membership fees or attendance of coalitions with related missions of brain health. **Coalitions** are temporary alliances between various groups to achieve a shared objective or goal.

A **multi-sector organization** includes several aspects of a community, such as education, criminal justice, social services, public health, faith/spirituality, etc. Local multi-sector organizations, such as public health coalitions or collaborations, rural health agencies, or area health education centers (AHECs), etc., may also be suitable partners for this opportunity. Partners are eligible to apply for this funding as the lead organization but must be in collaboration with an [EF Affiliate](#), EF regional team member or epilepsy-related agency.

The following national partners are considered multi-sector organizations and have state level entities that may be linked to epilepsy agencies for this funding opportunity: [American Public Health Association](#), [Society for Public Health Education](#), [National Association of State Head Injury Administrators](#), [Brain Injury Alliances](#), Stroke Associations, and [National Rural Health Association](#).

Local chapters or affiliates of these national organizations are also suitable partners for this funding opportunity: American Bar Association, National Disability Rights Networks, NAACP, Urban League, [Consortium of African American Public Health Programs](#), National Association of School Nurses, [Association of Higher Education and Disability](#) and Transition Orgs, such as [Got Transition](#). Colleges and universities, including Historically Black Universities and Colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges are also suitable partners. Other potential collaborators are: social services, community health workers, day care centers, summer camps, food banks/pantries, churches, digital equity groups, and other patient advocacy organizations.

To be considered for this funding, please submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) stating your collaboration and your interest in being funded to address unmet social needs of people living with epilepsy by the stated deadline. LOIs will be reviewed by members of the national team of the Epilepsy Foundation.

Upon review of LOIs, chosen collaborations will be invited to complete full SDOH mini grant applications including action plans, memorandums of agreement (MOAs), W-9s (if applicable), and detailed budgets to confirm participation in the 2026 SDOH mini grant project.

The chosen grantees will be invited to participate in the **orientation meeting** scheduled for **2 pm EST** on **Thursday, January 29, 2026**.

Proposed activities may include patient, professional, and public education, awareness, and media campaigns, training, and/or linkage and referral services. Existing EF resources, including Seizure First Aid, Epilepsy and Seizure Safe Classrooms Training, Behavioral Health Professional Training, School Personnel Trainings, Law Enforcement Trainings, 24/7 Helpline, Legal Defense Fund, Seizure Dog Program, and racial and ethnic, minority and anti-stigma media campaigns, etc. should be utilized. Established events and activities of multi-sector partners, such as social service fairs and community outreach efforts, should be considered as opportunities to add epilepsy-related activities and resources.

The SDOH Mini-Grant Letter of Interest (LOI) should be: one to three pages in length, single-spaced, in Times New Roman font (12 pt.) with 1-inch margins.

The LOI should address the following:

1. A description of the geographic reach and size of population with epilepsy served by your office;
2. Explanation of collaboration between EF affiliate and multi-sector organization. State if your organization needs support with confirming partnership or if collaboration has already been confirmed;
3. Understanding of social needs of PWEs in your area (community or state level), including rural or epilepsy health disparities. Experience serving diverse and multicultural communities;
4. Proposed activities to increase awareness of epilepsy among social agencies or multi-sector organization's members/clients and proposed activities to connect and/or link PWEs with social services, including legal and public safety resources. [Timeline for activities should include February to September 2026];
5. Description of sustainability of partnerships beyond the term of this project with a focus on linking PWEs to social services;
6. Proposed expenditures for mini-grant funds [Please note that these funds are not to support hiring new personnel or covering salaries for staff not directly involved in activities. Budgets should align with proposed activities and partnerships]
7. If your organization is already an existing grantee of EFA through a different program or project.

If you have never written a letter of interest or intent, please consider reviewing tips [here](#).

### **Intended Program Outcomes**

The intended outcomes of this project are:

- Sustained relationships between EF network and local social, education and public health services and multi-sector coalitions
- Increased number of PWEs from diverse communities connected to EF network and local services
- Increased number of social services, education and public health/ health education providers trained in SFA and knowledgeable of epilepsy disparities
- Increased number of law enforcement officers, behavioral health workers, community health workers, and teachers and professors, trained through existing EFA courses
- Increased linkages and referrals of diverse PWEs to social and local services.
- Decreased unmet social needs of people living with epilepsy
- Increase efficacy and capacity of EF network to address social determinants of epilepsy.

## **SDOH Year 5 CONSIDERATIONS**

Applicants should consider the following regarding applying for SDOH Mini-Grants:

- Which organizations does your agency collaborate with that have similar missions, such as stroke associations or brain injury alliances?
- How many multi-sector coalitions does your agency belong to, such as your state public health association?
- How are you promoting EFA free training and resources, such as the Seizure Safe Classroom Curriculum for teachers or the Community Health Workers On-Demand Course?
- How are you referring people with epilepsy to our legal services or to food banks or shelters?
- How are you capturing the social needs of your clients and making partnerships with organizations to help you address those unmet social needs?

## **MINI-GRANT GUIDELINES**

- No more than ten awards will be granted through this funding opportunity, and each award will be funded up to \$10,000.
- An estimated itemized budget must accompany the full grant application, but a summary is appropriate for the LOI. *The supplementation of salaries for key project staff is not allowed but stipends or reimbursements for work completed as part of the grant can be given to project staff.*
- Activities should be within these categories: health education, outreach, media and communications, or training. Applicants that are funded will be required to evaluate all program activities and are mandated to report on proposed activities.
- Projects are required to provide epilepsy health education and awareness activities for at least **six months** (*February - September 2026*), including planning activities.
  - Planning activities may include finalizing collaborations with partners, confirming training dates and securing necessary resources, such as event venues, etc.
- Patient education activities should utilize existing resources, such as referring to **24/7 national Helpline, Legal Defense Fund, Behavioral Health Provider Courses** or connecting them to public safety programs or resources. Grant funds may be used to pay for expert presenters or vouchers for epilepsy jewelry, etc. Resources from, and connections back to, the Foundation should be utilized whenever possible.
- Projects featuring public health education and awareness activities targeting minority populations, education, law enforcement and criminal justice workforces are required to include **seizure first aid information and/or training; Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure course and/or Civil Rights and Epilepsy videos; and/or Epilepsy and Seizure Safe Classrooms training.**

- **Only trained instructors of the Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure course may implement the new Seizure Recognition and Response course for law enforcement officers.** Trainers are in the following states: Delaware, Maryland, Illinois, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Oregon, Ohio, Colorado, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Michigan, New York, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Texas. Agencies that need to be connected to a trainer in one of these states should contact the EFA Training Team at [program@efa.org](mailto:program@efa.org). Agencies outside of these states that want to engage law enforcement and public safety officers may establish relationships and promote the training but must direct interest to the national EFA Training Team via [programs@efa.org](mailto:programs@efa.org).
- **Only trained instructors of the Epilepsy and Seizure Safe Classrooms course may implement the new course targeting teachers and middle and high school students.** Grantees interested in promoting and/or implementing this course as part of their grant activities and plan to get a staff member or partners trained as an instructor should plan to include seeking support from EFA Training Team as part of timeline.
- Projects featuring public health education and awareness information through **communications channels, such as newspapers, radio, social media**, etc., are required to include seizure first aid information from the **Stay, Safe, Side Campaign** and/or the **Anti-Stigma Campaign**. Existing campaign assets may be modified to feature local people with epilepsy to pitch to local media.
- Projects may include participation in existing local or **virtual** epilepsy and/or social service activities, such as walks or trainings. For example, a multi-sector health agency may help diversify the participation of an existing seizure first aid training hosted by the local epilepsy affiliate by assisting with event promotion and marketing or an EF affiliate may link PWEs to social services by marketing multi-sector org's outreach events.
- Projects may include activities to add social determinant assessments to EF affiliates' intake process or add social service agencies to helpline or resource directory.
- Project funding may **not** be utilized to support fundraising activities (such as walks or galas) other than to the extent of educational and awareness activities. Project funding may not be utilized for advocacy efforts.
- Grant funds **cannot** be used to develop new educational materials without **prior approval**. **Many EF resources are available online. Materials may be translated if need be.**
- Grant funds can be used for efforts to garner media attention for epilepsy awareness events and/or to provide epilepsy health education to the community at large. Public awareness campaigns can be used to generate more public support for epilepsy concerns. Public awareness campaigns **may** be exclusive activities and **should be connected to existing EF media outreach efforts**, such as ESSENCE and Hispanic Communications ads or Anti-Stigma campaign. *EF Multicultural Outreach Program and EF Communications staff should be consulted prior to publishing newspapers, radio, or digital ads to ensure marketing and messaging is consistent.*
- *If your agency has been awarded a CDSMP grant from the Epilepsy Foundation, please note in your LOI considerations for competing priorities and/or how staff may overlap multiple grant programs (SDOH and CDSMP).*
- Grantees should consider attending the **EFA Leadership Conference to be held April 13-15, 2026, in Minneapolis, MN**. Registration is free but grant funds may be utilized to cover travel and lodging. Additional information is forthcoming.

Here are examples of proposed activities in patient, provider, or public education:

#### **Patient Education Examples**

- Adding public safety resources, such as Seizure Dog Program flyers or Legal Defense Fund flyers to waiting rooms at Epilepsy Centers, Neurology Departments, or emergency rooms.
- Create and distribute a referral list of area facilities and physicians that provide medical treatment for epilepsy and seizure-related medical conditions (i.e. neurologists, epilepsy nurses, etc.) with local community health clinics or federally qualified health centers that see a large population of minority patients.
- Schedule and promote online training opportunities that enhance self-management or seizure first aid for patients' families.
- Provide outreach to minorities and/or individuals from racial and ethnic populations with epilepsy via telephone hotline, literature updates, online education sessions, teleconference education discussions, home/sick-and- shut-in drive-by parades, peer counseling, and self-management skills.
- Create honoring/celebration activities for epilepsy patients, caregivers and/or their children by making and highlighting their stories through videos, social media or local media.
- Supporting college-aged adults with epilepsy to strengthen their epilepsy support services on their college campuses through Seizure First Aid trainings, providing epilepsy resources to their health centers, dorms, classrooms, etc.

#### **Public Education Examples**

- Conduct or schedule presentations on epilepsy health education and/or seizure first aid training in the community or online.
- Plan or participate in social service and education outreach activities and/or host activities at your organization to raise awareness of the connection between epilepsy and discrimination.
- Engage law enforcement agencies or criminal justice organizations or school resource officers to establish partnerships to add their resources to your organization for future training or referrals.
- Enhance public education via media outlets, including social media, such as being interviewed on a local television station or placing a seizure first aid flyer in local newspapers.
- Advocacy efforts for policies, such as law enforcement officers and/or public safety officers or residential assistants at schools/colleges being required to know seizure first aid or seizure recognition and response courses may occur through this effort, however, funds may **not** be used for direct lobbying.

#### **Provider Education Examples**

- Coordinate epilepsy disparities educational sessions or seizure first aid trainings online (with or without continuing education units) for health providers, including physicians, nurses, public health staff and/or others. [*The Foundation is a provider of CPH and CHES continuing education units. Through partnership with other CE providers, CME or CNE units may also be provided for trainings.*]
- Provide local health providers and public health officials with epilepsy health education materials to display in their lobbies or distribute online for patients.
- Promote epilepsy health education opportunities, such as [Project ECHO](#), to providers through local chapters of medical and health-related associations, such as the National AHEC Organization to connect with rural health providers.
- Target school and/or college health professionals and staff for Seizure First Aid Trainings and to distribute epilepsy resources

#### **Professional Education Examples**

- Coordinate Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure Recognition Course or Seizure First Aid training for law enforcement, correctional and public safety officers, or criminal justice workers, including defense attorneys, judges and/or others.

- Provide local health providers and public health officials with epilepsy public safety resources, such as Seizure Dog Program flyers or Legal Defense Fund flyers to display in their waiting rooms.
- Promote epilepsy health education opportunities, such as Project ECHO, to providers through local chapters of medical and health-related associations, such as the National AHEC Organization or National Rural Health Assn to connect with rural health providers.
- Target behavioral health professionals to complete the ***Behavioral Health Series*** on our [Epilepsy Foundation Learning Portal](#)
- Target teachers to train them in the new program, ***Epilepsy and Seizure Safe Classrooms***
  - [Epilepsy & Seizure Safe Classrooms toolkit](#)
  - [Seizure Training for High School Students](#).
  - [School Personnel Training in English](#).
  - [School Personnel training in Spanish](#).
- Target daycare staff and/or local health department staff to train them in Seizure First Aid and recruit them to be new Instructors
- Target Minority Serving Institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and/or Tribal Colleges, accessibility schools, such as for the deaf or blind populations, and/or alternative or trade schools to train faculty, staff, students, officers, etc. in Seizure First Aid and then recruit diverse instructors to help embed the training into their Faculty Institutes, Student orientations, fieldwork and practicums, etc.
  - Connect with our national partners on the local level to access colleges and universities in your area, such as the [Consortium of African American Public Health Programs](#) and the [Association of Higher Education and Accessibility](#)
- Coordinate Law Enforcement-Informed Seizure Recognition Course or Seizure First Aid training for law enforcement, correctional and public safety officers, or criminal justice workers, including defense attorneys, judges and/or others, including at their conferences such as these:
  - **2026 Law Enforcement Meetings and Conferences**
  - Feb. 5-8, 2026 - American Correctional Association, Long Beach, CA
  - March 6-8, 2026 - International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) Officer Safety and Wellness Conference, New Orleans, LA
  - March 11-14, 2026 - Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), Tucson, AZ
  - May 19-21, 2026 - IACP Technology Conference, Fort Worth, TX
  - June 7 - 10, 2026 - International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST), Fort Worth, TX
  - July 28 - Aug 3, 2026 - American Correctional Association, Pittsburgh, PA
  - July 22-25, 2026 - CALEA®, Omaha, NE
  - July 24-28, 2026 - 50th Annual NOBLE Training Conference, Dallas, Texas
  - August 21-23, 2026 – IACP Impaired Driving and Traffic Safety Conference, Anaheim, CA
  - October 24-27, 2026 – National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Annual Conference and Exposition, Orlando, FL

### **Important Reference Links**

- [National Association of State Head Injury Administrators](#)
- [Brain Injury Alliances](#)
- [Seizure First Aid - epilepsy.com/firstaid](#)
- [EFA Helpline - https://www.epilepsy.com/helpline](#)
- [Project ECHO](#) for providers – Not So Rare ECHO
- [Law Enforcement Course](#)
- [Epilepsy Self-Management Training for Community Health Workers](#)
- All Courses in Epilepsy Learning Portal for School Personnel, Behavioral and Mental Health

Professionals, etc.: [Epilepsy Foundation Learning Portal](#)

- **[Jeanne A. Carpenter Epilepsy Legal Defense Fund](#)**

- Here are links to civil rights and epilepsy videos:

- **Educational Rights and 504 Plans:** [https://youtu.be/cYkvOO\\_Ftpg?si=glUgoU5IWMATrZG](https://youtu.be/cYkvOO_Ftpg?si=glUgoU5IWMATrZG)
    - **Arrested with Epilepsy:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr4pDoXXzQQ>
    - **Fired due to Epilepsy:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTgG1G78DFI>

### **Reporting Requirements**

There are grant reporting mechanisms and evaluation reports that are required to be submitted to the Epilepsy Foundation when funded. Grant management is required by your agency.

If funded, you will be responsible for:

- Submission of Full Application in February 2026
- Submission of signed Memorandums of Agreement
- Submission of detailed and signed invoices (Non-EF Affiliate)
- Submission of Final Project Report in September 2026
- Copy of agency IRS letter or certificate of nonprofit status (Non-EF Affiliate)
- Copy of W-9 to receive funds from Epilepsy Foundation (Non-EF Affiliate)
- ***Attending Monthly Monitoring Meetings for Oral Project Progress Updates and Peer Support***
  - *If you are already a grantee of another EFA Program, such as Chronic Disease Self-Management, please be mindful of staffing requirements to attend multiple technical assistance sessions.*

### **Tentative Timeline**

- November 2025: Announcement of Mini-Grant Opportunity as part of CDC CA Announcement to Network & Partners
- December 2025: LOI and Partnership Preparation Period
- January 20-26, 2026: LOI Submission and Review Period (Rolling deadline)
- January 28, 2026: Mini-Grantee Notification Period
- January 29, 2026: Mini-Grant Orientation Group Meeting (11 AM or 2 PM EST)
- February 26, 2026: First TA Meeting (Monthly meetings last Thursday @ 2 PM EST)
- February 27, 2026: Full Application Packet Due & Distribution of First \$5,000
- February 1 – September 18, 2026: Grant Activity Period
- September 10, 2026: Project Success Webinar (2 – 4 PM EST)
- September 11-25, 2026: Grant Reporting Period & Distribution of Second \$5,000

### **Submitting Your LOI**

Your LOI should be addressed to Thometta Cozart, Multicultural Outreach and Health Equity Senior Director and emailed to [tcozart@efa.org](mailto:tcozart@efa.org) during the rolling deadline of **January 20<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup>**. Letters will be reviewed on a rolling basis until a final decision is made regarding grant funds. Please contact Thometta Cozart or Shel Lessington **before January 20<sup>th</sup>** if you have any questions or concerns.