NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

Request for Applications

Climate Change and Health Adaptation Projects

Released Monday, November 9, 2026

Applications due by 11:59 PM ET

Friday, December 18, 2026

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Background

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) is a not-for-profit association with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, representing local health departments (LHDs) in New York State. NYSACHO provides advocacy, training, and technical assistance to LHDs. It is the voice of the state's local public health system working for all New Yorkers to prevent disease and disability, promote health and safety, and protect against public health hazards in the environment.

In line with NYSACHO's mission to support and empower LHDs in their work to promote health and wellness, NYSACHO is committed to providing support to LHDs as they work to address and prevent the health impacts of climate change. To this end, NYSACHO, with support from New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), intends to offer up to ten (10) awards, up to $3,000 each, to support local climate change and health adaptation projects.

Application Information

Applicants will submit a project description and proposed project budget, using the Application Template in Appendix A. Examples of climate health and adaptation projects are provided in Appendix B. Complete applications should be submitted electronically to Danielle Pellino (dpellino@nysacho.org) by Friday, December 18, 2026, with the email subject line: "2027 Climate and Health Grant Application." All applicants will be notified of their selection status by Friday, January 29, 2027.

Eligibility

To be considered for this funding opportunity, applicants must be a local health department based in the State of New York. If a local health department believes another county government agency may be an appropriate recipient for these funds, they may invite them to apply and should notify Danielle Pellino (dpellino@nysacho.org).

Scoring & Evaluation

NYSACHO and NYSDOH will use the following criteria to review and score applications materials:

- **Project Description (50 points)**: Provide a description of the initiative, project, or activity to be supported with this funding. The project description should describe:
    - The project's primary target audience, including the estimated number or proportion of the population able to be reached, if possible, to quantify;
    - How the proposed project will address climate and health priorities within the community using relevant data, if available; and
    - How the project will build upon previous work, and/or how the project will be used to support work beyond the scope of this funding period.
    - Please note: Distribution of supplies, incentives, or resources must be integrated with educational programming. Proposals should demonstrate how they will combine outreach with substantive educational activities (e.g., presentations, trainings, skill-building sessions, communications campaigns, etc.) to create a more comprehensive approach.
- **Collaboration (25 points)**: Include information on how internal and/or external partners will be involved with carrying out the proposed project.

- Applicants must identify and engage at least one non-governmental, community-based organization (CBO) as a primary project partner. Please include the name of the CBO and describe their role in project implementation.
    - *A CBO is a non-governmental, community-rooted entity that engages directly with local residents to improve health, equity, and resilience. They often focus on serving and engaging vulnerable or underserved populations such as older adults; individuals with disabilities or chronic health conditions; low-income residents; communities of color; immigrants and refugees; unhoused individuals; veterans; people who use drugs; and other populations disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental hazards. CBOs bring essential local knowledge, trusted relationships, and culturally responsive approaches that complement and extend the work of LHDs through locally tailored, community-driven strategies.*
  - A letter of support from the partnering CBO is strongly recommended.
- **Climate Justice (10 points)**: Describe how the project will address social, racial, and/or environmental impacts that disproportionately affect the health of vulnerable populations.
- **Evaluation (15 points):** Describe how the applicant will demonstrate how the project made an impact on the community. Applicants should identify specific, measurable goals and/or objectives and describe the metrics that will be used to track progress and assess impact. Where possible, applicants should establish targets for these metrics.
  - Examples may include, but are not limited to, the number or proportion of community members or priority population reached, participation or attendance, educational activities conducted, knowledge or awareness gained, resources or supplies distributed, changes in intended behaviors or practices, or engagement with communications and outreach activities. For communications, media, or social media campaigns, metrics may include website visits or clicks, social media reach, impressions, engagement, video views, advertisement reach or impressions, radio or other media placements, or other measures of audience engagement.
  - Applicants should also describe how evaluation data will be collected and tracked.

Optional Webinar: 2026 Climate and Health Adaptation Projects

NYSACHO will host a webinar on **Thursday, November 12, 2026 from 1-2 PM** featuring local health departments that previously received climate and health adaptation funding from NYSACHO. During the webinar, speakers will describe their project, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned for other LHDs to consider before replicating. **Register here for the webinar!**

Project Information

Timeline

Deadline	*Activity*
Monday, November 9, 2026	RFA opens
Thursday, November 12, 2026 1 - 2 PM	Optional Webinar: 2026 Climate and Health Adaptation Projects
Friday, December 18, 2026	Applications due to Danielle Pellino (dpellino@nysacho.org)
Friday, January 29, 2027	All applicants notified of selection status
February-July, 2027	Begin project activities and participate in check-in calls with NYSACHO and NYSDOH
Monday, May 3, 2027	Evaluation section 1 due
Friday, July 30, 2027	Submit final report to NYSACHO
Tuesday, August 31, 2027	Evaluation section 2 due

Requirements

By July 30, 2027, selected applicants will be required to:

- Participate in three (3) check-in calls with NYSACHO and NYSDOH.
- Develop a summary project presentation that could be presented to other LHD partners during a future webinar, summarizing the project, best practices, and lessons learned.
- Complete a project evaluation at the beginning of the project to identify anticipated outcomes, challenges, stakeholders, etc. An evaluation template from prior funding cycles is provided in Appendix C.
- Save receipts for purchases made using project funds. Receipts should be made available upon request from NYSACHO or NYSDOH.

By August 31, 2027, selected applicants will be required to:

- Complete a project evaluation at the completion of the project detailing actual challenges, outcomes, stakeholders, etc. An evaluation template from prior funding cycles is provided in Appendix C.

To ensure materials developed through this project are consistent with the positions of the NYSDOH, it is strongly recommended that materials be shared with NYSACHO & NYSDOH for review prior to publication.

Ineligible Expenses

Funds can't be used to:

- Purchase or plant trees, air conditioning units, heat pumps, air purifiers, other equipment, food, or gift cards
- Deliver medical services or purchase medical supplies
- Build permanent structures
- Support activities funded by another grant source, but may be used to supplement by enhancing or expanding upon existing grant-funded activities.

Method of Payment

NYSACHO will disburse payments to awardees via a one-time payment.

NYSACHO Contact Information

Please direct any comments, questions, or concerns related to this funding opportunity to:

Danielle Pellino, MPH, CHES®
Program Manager
dpellino@nysacho.org

Appendix A: Application Template

General Information

Applicant Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	**Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.
Position Title: Click or tap here to enter text.	**Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.
Organization Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	
If Selected, Will Applicant Serve as Lead Staff on Project? ☐ Yes ☐ *No*	
Please Provide the Following Information on Lead Staff (if different from applicant).	
Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	**Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.
Position Title: Click or tap here to enter text.	**Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Statement of Need

Click or tap here to enter text.

Project Description (50 points)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Collaboration (25 points)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Climate Justice (10 points)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Evaluation (15 points)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Proposed Project Budget

Instructions: Using the table below, list anticipated project expenditures. Total award should amount to no more than $3,000. If necessary, add more rows to the table to capture all project expenses.

Item	Description	Cost
Educational Material		
Social Media & Advertising		

Supplies		
Meetings		
Incentives		
Other		
	Total Award	

Appendix B: Examples of Climate and Health Adaptation Projects

Project funds can be used to supplement or support ongoing climate and health initiatives or be used to fund a pilot project or campaign. If applicants would like support in developing a project proposal, please reach out to Danielle Pellino (dpellino@nysacho.org). Ideas for potential projects could come from presentations given during the Fall 2022 Virtual Climate and Health Adaptation Workshops: https://www.nysacho.org/topic/climate-and-health-workshops/. The Resource Guide developed for the Workshops may also be useful to review: https://www.nysacho.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Resource-Guide-10.24-v3.pdf.

Listed below are examples of how this funding could be used:

- Convene a meeting with local climate and health stakeholders to advance adaptation planning. This could include broader activities (e.g., coordinating plans for future adaptation work or Climate Smart Community actions) or more specific efforts (e.g., increasing awareness of heat risks and OTDA cooling benefits among vulnerable populations, or NYSERDA energy efficiency programs)
- Develop and distribute educational materials that emphasize locally relevant health impacts of climate change, using data to tailor messaging to at-risk populations
- Host a tabletop exercise to test and evaluate response plans for climate-driven events such as flooding, extreme temperatures, or severe weather
- Organize a community event focused on environmental cleanup or Earth Day celebrations, with long-term engagement strategies to promote sustainability
- Formalize plans or improve infrastructure for local cooling and/or warming centers to better serve vulnerable residents during extreme weather events
- Purchase incentives for research or focus group participants to gather data that informs climate adaptation and public health strategies
- Increase awareness of heat-related risks and effective mitigation strategies for populations vulnerable to extreme weather events, especially extreme heat [examples could include integrating climate-related resources into existing programs (e.g., Healthy Neighborhoods Program), working with community partners to increase awareness among outdoor workers, etc.]

Appendix C: Sample Climate Adaptation Grant Evaluation Template

Note: This template was utilized in previous funding cycles and may undergo minor adjustments, if necessary.

Section I.

Please complete this section at the beginning of your project and submit to project staff for review by **Monday May 3rd**. Feedback will be provided prior to the completion of your project.

Project Title:

Department:

Project Lead(s):

Climate Hazard:
What climate hazards will be addressed by the project? (1-4 sentences)

Health Impact:
What health outcomes are expected to change as a result of the project? For example, will asthma exacerbations or incidence of heat illness be reduced? It is not required that you measure these. (1-4 sentences)

Intended Audience:
Who do you plan to reach with this project? Is this population considered vulnerable? (1-4 sentences)

Population Size:
Generally, how many people will benefit from this project? For example, if you are focusing on a particular neighborhood, how many residents live there? An estimate is okay. (short answer)

Strategies:
Indicate which strategies you are utilizing for your project.
__ Tabling at Events
__ Social Media Promotion
__ Development of Outreach Materials
__ Dispersal of Health Prevention Products
__ Development of Community Resource/s
__ Hosting Community Event/s
__ Providing Technical Assistance
__ Holding Focus Groups
__ Other- Please Specify: _____

Community Based Organization Partner
Please list the Community Based Organization (CBO) your department has chosen to work with on this project. Please describe the relationship with the CBO prior to this project.

Additional Partners
Please provide information on the additional partners you plan to engage in this project.

Partner Name	How will they be involved?

Representation within Stakeholders
Do any of your partners involve a member of the population at-risk? Please describe. (3-5 sentences, if applicable)

Health Equity
How will the project address health equity or reduce climate related health disparities? (3-5 sentences, if applicable)

Anticipated Challenges
What might act as barriers to implementing the planned activities? What can be done to minimize the effects of these anticipated challenges?

SMART Objectives
Develop at least 4 SMART Objectives for your project. One of the objectives must address how your project will impact the community.

At the end of your project, you will be asked to complete the second and third columns of this table for at least 2 objectives you choose. Be sure to select objectives that will be feasible to measure and report.

For information on how to develop SMART objectives, please review this resource on Objectives and Goals: Writing Meaningful Goals and SMART Objectives from the Minnesota Department of Health. You can also reach out to the evaluation liaison for support: Kristen McKenna, Kristen.mckenna@health.ny.gov.

SMART Objective	Evaluation Indicator (how do you plan to measure success)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Community Impact
Please describe how you will demonstrate how your project has made an impact on the community. What evaluation method/s will be used to collect this information from the community? For information on how to develop and implement an evaluation, please visit CDC Evaluation Framework. You can also reach out to the evaluation liaison for support: Kristen McKenna, Kristen.mckenna@health.ny.gov.

Section II.

Please complete this section at the completion of your project. Please submit no later than **Tuesday August 31st.**

Additional Partners

Please list any additional partners engaged during the project and indicate how they were involved in the project. Please also note if partners listed in Section I ended up not being involved in the project.

Partner Name	How were they involved?

Educational Resources Developed

Please provide information on resources developed to support your project. Please also include any resources from the NYSDOH and/or CDC used to support your project.

Resource Name	Type/Link to Share	Describe how the resource was used

Challenges

What were barriers to implementing the planned activities? How did you address these? What did you do to minimize the effects of these challenges?

Lessons Learned

Please describe at least one lesson learned from implementation of your project.

SMART Objectives

Please report on whether at least 2 of the project objectives you originally developed were met.

SMART Objective	Was this objective achieved?	Supporting Information
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Community Impact

Please describe any information you can provide on your project's community impact.

OPTIONAL: Photos of Project

Along with the submission of this report please include photos of the project being implemented and photos of any final products. These images can be used during your final presentation at the end of the grant cycle. The images will also be used by project staff in final reports and presentations at meetings and conferences.