



CALL FOR IDEAS

Addressing Unmet Vision Needs of Native Communities in the U.S.



The Seva Foundation is launching a call for ideas for programs that aim to improve the eye health of Native communities. Since 2013, Seva has focused its service with Native communities on strengthening eye health care. For more than 30 years Seva partnered with Native communities on a wide range of locally defined needs. With this announcement, the Foundation is looking for new ideas, innovation, and partnerships that will meet the growing eye health needs of Native communities. Seva is seeking applicants who are:

- Well-positioned and ready to implement projects that aim to improve access to eye care
- Ready to invest in local capacity to sustain eye care programs, and to
- Build the evidence base to inform future care practices.

About Seva

Seva is a global nonprofit eye care organization that transforms lives and strengthens communities by restoring sight and preventing blindness through local partnerships. We train local eye care providers and develop self-sustaining programs. Together we provide critical eye care to underserved communities, especially women, children, and indigenous peoples. Seva has helped 5 million blind people regain their sight in more than 20 countries.

The Need

Native Americans experience higher rates of preventable and/or treatable eye conditions, such as refractive error, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease, compared to other US racial/ethnic groups. Compounding biological predisposition, Native Americans encounter common socioeconomic barriers to care such as geographic isolation, poverty, and a lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate providers. Further, even when services are available, eye care services are often limited in scope and availability due to funding restrictions, space constraints, and/or staff vacancies. As a result of these combined factors, a large proportion of Native Americans do not have timely access to quality eye care services, further widening eye health disparities.

Your Idea with Seva's Support

Seva is looking for locally-based solutions that prevent and treat avoidable blindness, namely:

1. Equipping primary eye care clinics to increase community access to care,
2. Training to build local capacity and sustain eye service delivery,
3. Technology to leverage resources and extend the reach of eye care services.

Special attention will be given to Native American eye health program ideas that reflect one or more of these priorities.

Qualifications

Must be a United States/U.S. Territory applicant/organization with established relationships, programs with Native Americans/Alaska Natives in the U.S. or U.S. territory.
Target - AK, ID, MN, MT, ND, OR, SD, WA, WI

Apply

Seva is releasing awards up to \$125,000 for programs of 1–3 years duration. Interested applicants may submit a 1–2 page letter of intent (LOI) that clearly outlines your organization's program ideas for the funding opportunity.

Key information to include:

- Purpose and mission of your organization
- Intended number of beneficiaries and demographic served
- Key objectives and approach
- Measurement of program success
- Timeline
- Funding request and brief budget

Submissions

Submit LOI via email with a subject line: "Your Organization Name — Call For Ideas Submission."

LOI's must be received by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on **May 10, 2019**.

Contact

For questions, submissions, or more information: callforideas@seva.org.

