



PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Request for Information



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007



Submission Deadline:

January 7, 2021

OVERVIEW

On September 24, 2020, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) the City's long term recovery agenda focusing on public health and social justice and set the framework for a series of policy actions. This agenda lays out four tenets to make the City stronger, healthier, and fairer, one of which is to *make the City a global leader in and hub for innovation in public health research, design, and practice*.

Today, the Mayor announced an intention to create a new Pandemic Response Institute that aims to strengthen the City's health infrastructure particularly as it relates to pandemic response. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to illuminate gaps in preparedness and response, and a new public health institute that advances emergency preparedness while centering community-level partnerships and strengthening the connections between our public health, economic development, and environmental infrastructures will be critical in overcoming these persistent and growing challenges.

In this RFI, we are seeking input from both the City's existing public health ecosystem (e.g., doctors and nurses, academic researchers, industry innovators, health and social service nonprofits) and newer partners (e.g., experts in housing and economic development, organized labor, advocates for low-income communities and Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, as well as community members themselves) around how the City can not only increase public health capacity and preparedness to identify and respond to infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics, but also:

- Address the root causes of health inequities that existed prior to and were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (housing, environment, childcare/family supports, social services, broadband, transportation, job opportunities, etc.), and which are critical to address to stand up more effective emergency health responses in the future
- Build the capacity of academia, health systems, city government, and communities to work together effectively to support mental, physical, and economic health, both during emergencies and beyond
- Integrate public health efforts with local economic recovery efforts and the creation of new, stable, and good-paying jobs

These insights will not only inform the City's planning around a Pandemic Response Institute but also our broader public health and health equity work. This work, in aggregate, seeks to develop learnings within the City that can serve as a roadmap for cities across the country to transform public health practice and emergency preparedness and eliminate health inequities once and for all.

RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

To help inform the City and the local public health system's priorities moving forward, NYCEDC and DOHMH are seeking to solicit information from a wide range of public health experts, interdisciplinary policy makers, and community leaders on the following questions. Please use the accompanying response template and limit your response to no more than six pages in total.

Respondent information

1. Your first and last name

2. Name of your organization
3. Provide a brief description of your organization
4. Provide a brief description of the work your organization does in the public health space

Pandemic Response Institute

5. What suggestions do you have for where a new pandemic response institute should focus its efforts?
 - a. What gaps in infrastructure and other investments did the COVID-19 pandemic reveal locally with respect to:
 - i. Early detection and discovery (e.g., outbreak modeling, contact tracing)
 - ii. Ongoing management of the pandemic (e.g., PPE management and supply chains, personnel management and training)
 - iii. Ensuring that future emergency health response reach all communities across the City
 - b. What aspects of epidemic preparedness would be most beneficial for the City to build out, both to bolster its own preparedness for future epidemics and to position itself as a global leader in this area?
 - c. Are there temporary solutions that were developed in response to the pandemic that should be supported with more resources and scaled to facilitate longer-term improvements?

Advancing health equity more broadly

6. Broader problem identification: What gaps in infrastructure and other investments did the COVID-19 pandemic reveal as demonstrated by the unequal health outcomes across different neighborhoods and populations?
 - a. Which of these gaps are most significantly holding the City back from improving resident health outcomes overall, and particularly among groups who bear the burden of health inequities including but not limited to low income people, Black People, Indigenous People, and other People of Color?
 - b. Which gaps are most feasible to address in the near/medium term through concerted action amongst local public health stakeholders and cross sector partners?
7. Solutions - leveraging existing infrastructure: What currently supported public health programs/initiatives among local City agencies and organizations have been most successful or show promise, where there is an opportunity to scale the effort with more resources, expanded partnerships, etc.?
8. Solutions - building new infrastructure: Besides the Pandemic Response Institute, what ideas do you have around new programs, partnerships, or infrastructure that can meaningfully advance health equity in the City? E.g., new and/or broader collaboratives that should be formed that will support academia, the local health system, city government, and local communities in working more effectively together in support of public health equity – both during emergencies and beyond?
9. Community capacity and engagement: What other types of capacity should the City build within communities themselves to make sure that the City's approach to public health is inclusive of and responsive to the needs of New Yorkers who bear the greatest burdens of health inequities?
 - a. What are the best channels or processes through which government can quickly and effectively 1) gather community input and 2) effectively share information, particularly in times of emergency? Where do we need to bolster infrastructure to support better coordination and collaboration at neighborhood scale?

- b. What approaches have you seen that have not only built community capacity but also increased collective buy-in and fostered shared leadership in communities?
10. Economic recovery/jobs: What other ideas do you have for integrating public health efforts with local economic recovery efforts and the creation of new good, paying jobs?
- a. What current roles (jobs) are missing or underfunded in the City that would be critical to bolstering the City’s public health capacity?
 - b. Who are the members of the city’s “care force,” whose critical role in protecting and promoting the health of New Yorkers were illuminated by the pandemic, and how might they fit in to a broader public health workforce?
11. Next steps: What other organizations should the City be speaking with and seeking feedback from?

Respondent’s responses to this RFI (“Expressions of Interest”) are due by 11:59 PM EST on Thursday, January 7, 2021 (“Submission Date”).

RESPONSE SUBMISSION

[Respondents shall submit Responses via electronic upload pursuant to the instructions set forth on the RFI website at https://edc.nyc/nyc-public-health-initiatives-request-information.](https://edc.nyc/nyc-public-health-initiatives-request-information)

NYCEDC may, in its sole discretion, invite a Respondent or Respondents to request additional information.

NYCEDC may seek additional information from Respondents to this RFI after receiving Responses. NYCEDC reserves its right to include a Respondent’s information about initiatives based on this RFI without further process, and to include it in the City’s Proposal.

NEXT STEPS

Respondents will receive an anonymized and synthesized summary of key findings and takeaways from the RFI when available.

RFI ADDENDA

NYCEDC reserves the right to amend or withdraw this RFI at any time. In order to be considered, Responses must conform to any addenda that may be issued to this RFI. NYCEDC will advise all Respondents who have downloaded a copy of this RFI, by email, of any addenda, clarifications or revisions.

If, in NYCEDC’s judgment, additional time is required for Respondents to prepare their Responses, NYCEDC reserves the right to grant an extension of the deadline for submission of the Response.

The Website will govern in the event of any conflict between the Website and any Notice, addendum or other information that may be provided by NYCEDC.

RFI TIMELINE

• Release of RFI	December 3, 2020
• Submission Date	January 7, 2021 by 11:59 PM EST