

Florida Blue



Foundation

February 17, 2022

Food Security Grant Application Open



Florida Blue Foundation focuses its grant making on three strategic Drivers of Health: Food Security, Health Equity and Mental Well-being. By focusing on these Drivers of Health, we will advance the health of individuals, families and seniors while aligning our efforts with community needs and serving as a trusted partner throughout Florida.

The application for the 2022 Food Security grant program is now open. The deadline to submit an application is 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Thursday, March 31. Two application clarification

webinars via Zoom are scheduled on February 22.

The goal of the focus area is to impact food security of families and communities to help mitigate associated costly issues, which can be detrimental to health, development, and well-being. Target issues are:

- Access to affordable, healthy, and nutritional foods for those who live in food deserts or are food insecure, and
- Moving families from food insecurity to food security

For more information and the link to the application, [click here](#).

Application Portal Now Open

We announced in a recent issue that the [application portal](#) was undergoing a refresh. The refresh is complete and current funding opportunities are listed for your review and submission as appropriate. Visit the revised site to view all funding opportunities, submit your reports, check the status of an application, or submit requirements.

Register NOW! Big Issues in Health: A Focus on Health Equity

[Register NOW!](#) for the 2022 Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards on May 4-5. The theme is "Big Issues in Health: A Focus on Health Equity."

Big issues to be addressed include the current national opioid crisis, equity in maternal health, health care policy in 2022, metrics and evaluation, partnering for community change, and more. The topics and speakers will inform, create conversation around, and open up opportunities to identify and share real and potential solutions.

The recipients of the 2022 Sapphire Awards will be announced at the Sapphire Awards Dinner and Ceremony on the evening of May 4.

[Visit the event registration website](#) to learn more and complete your registration. Join us on May 4-5 at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Orlando.

BiG Issues in Health:

A Focus on Health Equity

Volunteer of the Year -- Call for Nominations



Do you have a super volunteer who happens to be a GuideWell or Florida Blue employee? A board member or mentor or someone who shows up every week to pack bags of food? We want to hear about that volunteer! Take a moment to read the [guidelines, and complete and submit the application](#) for the Volunteer of the Year. The deadline to submit is March 18. The winner and runners-up will be announced in April.

The Volunteer of the Year will be awarded \$1,000 that they will designate to the nonprofit of their choice. Both the Volunteer of the Year and their designated nonprofit partner will be featured in internal and external communications to raise awareness among our readers and the broader community.

GuideWell and Florida Blue employees offer their time, talent, and expertise to support worthy causes and help make a difference in their communities. Please [nominate](#) that super volunteer who is making a difference in your community.

Health Literacy Grants Deadline Extended

Florida Literacy Coalition has extended the deadline to apply for funding from the Florida Health Literacy Initiative. Funding, provided by a grant from Florida Blue Foundation, will be awarded to Florida-based nonprofits to advance health literacy in adult ESOL, adult literacy, and/or family literacy programs. The new deadline to apply for these mini-grants from the

Florida Literacy Coalition is February 21. To learn more and access the application, visit the [Florida Literacy Coalition's website](#).

2021 Foundation Grantees Announced

Florida Blue Foundation programs are focused on impacting food security, improving health equity, advancing mental well-being, cultivating healthy communities, and addressing systemic racism and the resulting health disparities.

In 2021, the Foundation awarded more than \$7.885 million to 25 nonprofit organizations located across Florida in the Food Security and Mental Well-being grant programs. To view a list of the organizations and descriptions of their funded programs, click on the program name below:

- [Food Security](#)
- [Mental Well-being](#)

For open funding opportunities, visit the [application portal](#).

COVID-19: On From Omicron

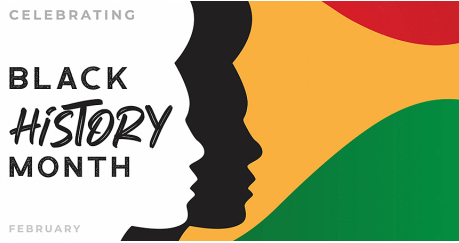
As the Omicron variant continues to decline, you may be wondering what's next for COVID-19. Hear from a medical expert on the latest COVID-19 developments during a live webinar on Tuesday, March 1, at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). [Learn more!](#)

Save the Date!

Florida Blue Foundation and Florida Combined Life once again are teaming up to present the 2022 Medical-Dental Integration Symposium to be held on August 24. Because of the wide national audience, the symposium will be presented in webinar format. The focus is Integrated Health Care for Seniors. Members of medical, nursing and dental teams, as well as representatives from Federally Qualified Health Centers and the nonprofit community are encouraged to attend. Details and how to register will be posted in this publication as they are confirmed. Mark your calendars and plan to participate. Highlights of the 2021 Medical-Dental Integration Symposium can be found [here](#).



Black History Month



Each February, the country marks Black History Month by taking time to reflect on, learn about, and celebrate the rich heritage and achievements, as well as to acknowledge the struggles, of Black people in the U.S. and around the world. The annual celebration began in the U.S. in 1926 with February chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. president who issued

the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and Frederick Douglass, a former slave, orator, social reformer, writer, and abolitionist.

Each year, a theme is selected by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. For 2022, the theme is [Black Health and Wellness](#), particularly appropriate as we continue to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

We encourage you to take some time this month to reflect on the meaning of Black History Month.

Financial Operations Specialist Position Open

Would you like to join our team? Florida Blue is currently hiring a Financial Operations Specialist. The position will be responsible for providing organizational, financial, and operational support services that enable the successful execution of business goals and objectives for the Public Affairs and Community Engagement Department (PACE) team, including Florida Blue Foundation. To view the position requirements and information, and to apply, [click here](#).

Reminders

Click on the links to learn more about the following items:

[Florida Health Literacy Grant Applications Deadline](#)

- DEADLINE EXTENDED to February 21

[Food Security Grant Program Application](#)

- Application Clarification Webinars (two) -- February 22
- Deadline to apply -- March 31 before 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

[COVID-19 Update](#)

- On From Omicron webinar -- March 1

[Volunteer of the Year](#)

- Deadline to submit -- March 18 before 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

[2022 Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards](#)

- May 4-5 at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando

[2022 Medical-Dental Integration Symposium](#)

- August 24

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FLORIDA BLUE FOUNDATION MISSION

Help people and communities achieve better health.

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