Since 2013, Seva has focused its service with Native American communities, on strengthening eye healthcare. For more than 30 years previously, Seva partnered with these communities on a wide range of locally defined needs. To build on the established community relationships, Seva announces Call for Ideas to promote solutions through eye health programs or research, that seek to improve and expand eye health for Native Communities in the United States. 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 eyecare programs
- Able to build the evidence base to inform future care practices

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. As a result of these and other 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 Foundation is looking for locally applicable solutions in one of the following categories:

- Eye health programs that extend the reach and impact of eye care services to prevent and treat avoidable blindness in Native communities.

- Eye health programs with a focus on creating or expanding a pipeline of care from screening through advanced/ surgical care.

- Research that seeks to add to the base of knowledge and understanding about factors surrounding eye health in Native communities.

Special attention will be given to projects that utilize technology to find solutions.

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. 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.

What Drives Us

Seva administrates work with Native communities through the Native American Vision (NAV) program. This includes a network of partners and collaborators who are the front line of finding solutions to improve eye health in these communities. Earlier this year, our partners shared their interest in adding opportunities for research and technology-based solutions to the NAV network, so these will be focus areas of this Call for Ideas.

To Apply

Eye Health Programs

Seva is releasing awards up to $50,000 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 by **October 18, 2024**.

Key information to include in the LOI:

1. Project Name
2. Purpose and mission of the organization
3. Intended number of beneficiaries and demographic served
4. Key objectives and approach
5. How program success will be measured, timeline
6. Funding request amount and a brief budget.

Note that the maximum allowable costs for indirect and overhead expenses is 10%.

Research Projects

Seva is releasing awards up to $20,000 for programs of 1-2 year duration. Interested applicants may submit a 1-2 page letter of intent (LOI) that clearly outlines your organization's research project ideas for the funding opportunity by **October 18, 2024**

Key information to include in the LOI:

1. Project Title
2. What is your research question?
3. What are your key objectives?
4. How does this project add accessibility or scalability?
5. How many patients (and demographics) will you serve?
6. How will you measure success?
7. What is your timeline?
8. What is your proposed budget?

Note that the maximum allowable costs for indirect and overhead expenses is 10%. LOI

An organization may apply for one or both opportunities.

Qualifications

Must be a United States/U.S. Territory applicant/organization with established relationships, or programs with Native Americans in the U.S. or a U.S. territory.

LOI Submission

Submit LOI via email to jleo@seva.org, with a subject line of the name of the applicant organization and Call For Ideas Submission by 11:59pm (PST), October 18, 2024.