



Social Isolation and Loneliness and Livable Communities

Grant Application Information Session
April 4, 2024 • 1:30 pm
Helen Sampson, Community Grants Coordinator



ARPA Funding

- President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law on March 11, 2021.
- ARPA provides \$1.9 trillion in economic stimulus to aid the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is [investing some of its ARPA funding](#) to implement a statewide grant program focused on addressing the epidemic of loneliness and isolation amongst older adults and people with disabilities.

What is Social Isolation and Loneliness?

- **Social isolation** is the lack of relationships with others and little to no social support or contact. It is associated with risk even if people don't feel lonely.
- **Loneliness** is feeling alone or disconnected from others. It is feeling like you do not have meaningful or close relationships or a sense of belonging. It reflects the difference between a person's actual and desired level of connection. This means that even a person with a lot of friends can feel lonely.

What is Social Connectedness?

- **Social connectedness** is the degree to which people have and perceive a desired number, quality, and diversity of relationships that create a sense of belonging and being cared for, valued, and supported.
- A good resource about social connectedness is the CDC's webpage, [How Does Social Connectedness Affect Health?](#)

Examples of Social Connectedness (1)

- Having meaningful and regular social exchanges
- Feeling a sense of support from friends, family, and others in the community
- Feeling a sense of belonging
- Having close bonds with others
- Feeling loved, cared for, valued, and appreciated by others

Examples of Social Connectedness (2)

- Having more than one person to turn to for support, including:
 - Emotional support when feeling down
 - Physical support, like getting a ride to the doctor or grocery store
- Having access to safe public areas to gather (such as parks and recreation centers)

What are Livable Communities? (1)

- **Livable communities** are the built environments that fosters social connectedness.
- A livable community is one that:
 - Is safe and secure.
 - Offers choices in where to live and how to get around.
 - Equitably serves residents of all ages, ability levels, incomes, races, ethnicities, and other backgrounds.

What are Livable Communities? (2)

Livable communities:

- Enhance personal independence.
- Allow residents to remain in their homes and communities as they age.
- Provide opportunities for residents of all ages, ability levels, and backgrounds to engage fully in civic, economic, and social life.

Why Do We Need Social Connectedness?

- **Prevalence:** Nearly 1 in 4 adults 65+ are socially isolated.
- **Health:** Social isolation significantly increases the risk of dementia, heart disease, and stroke.
- **Health equity:** Social isolation impacts some groups more than others.
- **Cost:** Loneliness costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$406 billion per year in addition to the \$6.7 billion per year in Medicare costs.

What are the Benefits of Social Connectedness?

- Social connectedness can help create trust and resilience within communities.
- The sense of community belonging and having supportive and inclusive relationships:
 - Helps communities thrive and support the overall well-being, health, safety, and resilience of communities.
 - May encourage people to give back to their communities, which may further strengthen those connections.

How Do We Create Social Connectedness and Livable Communities for Older Adults and People with Disabilities?

- **Work together:** Develop a coalition or redirect a similarly aligned coalition to address social isolation and loneliness and livable communities.
- **Plan:** Understand your community needs and identify resources for impact.
- **Do something:** Implement a community project or open an adult day care center.
- **Share:** Amplify your message so everyone can benefit.

You Are Invited to Consider

- How are your efforts equitable?
 - When every person can attain their full health potential, and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of socially determined circumstances, then we have achieved equity.
 - “Applicants may choose to focus the coalition and community project on a specific population if the population is underserved and at disproportionate risk.”
- Where do your efforts fit into the bigger picture?

Grant Information

- “Social Isolation and Loneliness” and “Livable Communities” are two separate grants.
- Application requests are capped at \$100,000 for each grant.
- DHS expects to award a combined 30 recipients.
- One application is allowed from each organization per grant (applying for both grants is allowable).

Timeline

Application submissions due

Applications received after the date and time listed will be deemed non-responsive and will be rejected.

The application, including all required documents and attachments, must be sent via email to helen.sampson@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

April 15, 2024
4 p.m. (CST)

Application review period

April 16–April 22, 2024

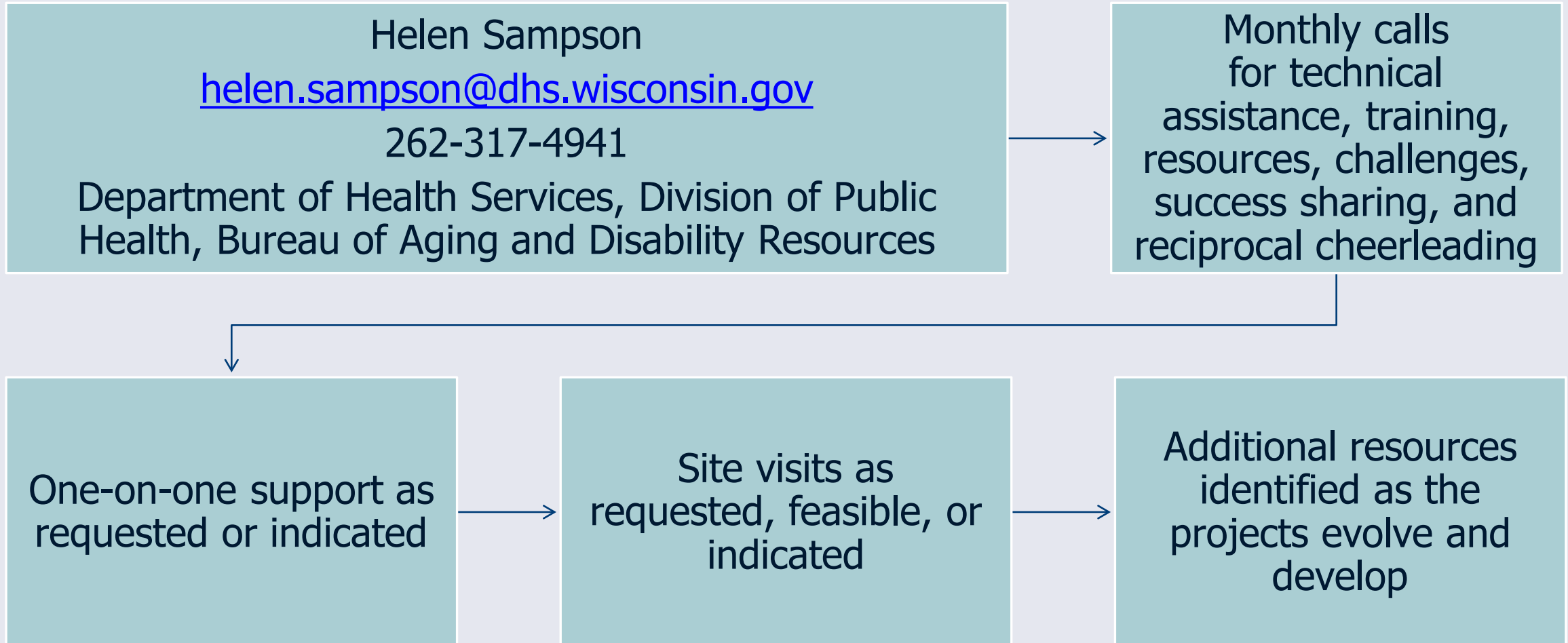
Anticipated notification of award

April 30, 2024

Anticipated contract period

Through March 31, 2025

Support



Questions

- This virtual meeting has been recorded and will be posted as quickly as possible.
- An FAQ will be posted on April 10, 2024, inclusive of this session and other submissions.

