Massachusetts Healthy Aging Fund – Inquiry of Ideas

Why the Healthy Aging Fund?

The Massachusetts Healthy Aging Fund is an opportunity to reduce health inequities in communities across Massachusetts and improve the quality of life and health outcomes for older adults as they age in Massachusetts. The Healthy Aging Fund is both a grantmaking and capacity-building resource designed to support organizations and communities in the development of Age-Friendly communities.

The Healthy Aging Fund's resources come from long term care facilities that go through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need Program. In January 2017, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) completed a landmark revision of the Determination of Need (DoN) regulation which led to the creation of the Healthy Aging Fund. (click here for additional information on the Determination of Need program)

In 2019, the statewide Advisory Committee established a vision for the fund's resources to **contribute to equitable systems across sectors affecting community-level physical environments and social and economic conditions ultimately leading to a better quality of life and health outcomes for older adults as they age in Massachusetts.** The Healthy Aging Fund is designed to support prevention efforts to enable older adults of all abilities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, religions, and regardless of economic status to remain active, independent, safe, and involved in their community (see Figure 1). This vision aligns with DPH's and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs' (EOEA) commitment to advancing health equity and having a positive impact on the social determinants of health.

Figure 1. Healthy Aging Funding Investment Strategy

What will the Healthy Aging Fund support?

The Healthy Aging Fund will invest in strategies that focus on the eight multisector domains of age-friendly communities defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP (see Figure 2), emphasizing the social determinants of health and funding of policy, systems, and environmental change approaches. In this round of funding, the Healthy Aging Fund expects to make multiple awards through two tiers of funding for up to 5 years per award, with preference given to those ideas that address the areas of housing and transportation. Awards that support planning and capital investments are also possible. Future rounds of funding will depend on the availability of funds.

Below are additional details of the two tracks, and the types of activities they could support:

- Tier 1, $10,000-$25,000: This tier is designated for organizations that seek support for activities that would build the infrastructure for, or take initial steps toward, advancing a longer-term initiative. Specific examples include but are not limited to: hosting activities that support community engagement; strategic planning; focus groups and listening sessions; and professional and staff training.
- Tier 2, Up to $100,000: This tier is designated for organizations or coalitions that seek support to develop new or expand existing initiatives. Specific examples of costs that can be covered in this category include staff/personnel, building capacity of older adults to engage in policy, systems, and environmental change, and trainings with coalition partners to build awareness about and incorporate health equity.

Figure 2. Domains of Age-Friendly Communities

For more information about Age-Friendly Communities and the eight domains, click here.

Alignment with Other Initiatives
Preference will be given to initiatives that complement and/or align with other public and private social determinants of health initiatives affecting the quality of life of older adults. These include, but are not limited to: recommendations from the Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts, Community Compact's Best Practices, and Mass in Motion.

Expected Outcomes and Impact of the Fund
The Healthy Aging Fund's work will lead to measurable short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes in areas related to policy, systems, and environmental change approaches, changes in community-level conditions, and changes in population health. Examples of potential measures include: availability of options for affordable transportation as measured through a survey of transportation programs; availability of affordable multi-purpose and aging in place housing options as measured by review of planning committee minutes and inventory of municipal affordable housing units for residents 55+; portion of people 65+ who want to remain in their current residence and are confident they will be able to afford to do so as measured by a community survey; and, change in Serious Complex Chronic Disease measure found in the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Data Report[1].
Click for more information on Health Equity, the Social Determinants of Health, and Age-Friendly Communities. Staff to the Healthy Aging Fund are available to discuss the Fund and its activities. Contact HealthyAgingFund@HRiA.org.

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[1] The Massachusetts Healthy Aging Data Report was commissioned by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation with research led by the Gerontology Institute of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Who is eligible to submit an idea to the Healthy Aging Fund?
Massachusetts-based non-profit 501(c)3 organizations and municipalities are eligible to submit ideas to the Healthy Aging Fund.

For this round of funding, the Healthy Aging Fund will prioritize funding support to Gateway Cities and rural communities that have not routinely benefitted from previous local DoN community health funding and have high rates of health inequities. Strategies may focus on geographic or population-based communities at the local, regional, or statewide levels. For additional information click here.

How will my idea be reviewed?
All completed submissions will be reviewed by a statewide allocations committee in late October. Ideas will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Equity:** Demonstration that the idea is addressing a geography/population experiencing inequities; demonstration of engagement of the populations experiencing inequities, etc.
- **Impact:** Demonstration of logic connecting the approach to addressing the root cause → SDoH → Health Outcome.
- **Collaboration:** Demonstration of multi-sector partners with diverse perspectives and experiences.
- **Feasibility:** Likelihood of resources supporting success.

How do I submit an idea for policy, systems, and environmental change approaches?
Ideas should be submitted through the online form by **Wednesday, September 18, 2019 by 2:00 p.m**. To submit your idea(s) please click here. The website leads to an online idea portal which will ask you to **A: Complete a Cover Form** and **B: Upload an Inquiry of Idea (IOI)**. The instructions for each step are below.

PART A: Cover Form

This online form requests basic information about the organization submitting the idea. Items include:
- **Lead Non-Profit or Municipality:** Complete requested fields (name of organization or municipality, Tax ID number-if available)
- **Organization CEO/Municipal Manager Contact Information:** Complete requested fields (name, title, organization, mailing address, phone, email) for contact information for organization's CEO, or equivalent or the municipality's top official.
- **Organization to Lead Proposed Project:** If different from the Lead non-profit or municipality.
- **Contact for the IOI:** Complete requested fields for (name, title, organization, mailing address, phone, email) contact information for person responsible for this idea submission.
- **Title of IOI:** List the title of the IOI.
- **Healthy Aging Domain:** Select the healthy aging domain(s) that your idea primarily focuses on. Select all that apply.
- **SDoH Areas of Impact:** Select the SDoH area(s) that your idea primarily focuses on. Select all that apply.
- **Health Outcome Areas of Impact:** Select the health outcome area(s) that your idea primarily focuses on. Select all that apply.
- **Can we share your idea with others interested in this work for the potential of future collaboration or coordination of activities? One of the objectives of the Healthy Aging Fund is to connect people and organizations with similar interests and missions.**
  _____Yes, I would like to share my idea with others.

  _____No, I want to keep this idea confidential.

PART B: Inquiry of Idea

To describe your idea in more detail, you will need to upload an attachment that addresses the content below. This attachment may be any one of the following:

- o **Narrative Document** (.doc or .pdf) up to 5 pages, 12 pt font, single-spaced, half-inch margins
- o **Video** (.mov or .wmv) up to 15 minutes
- o **Presentation** (.ppt) up to 20 slides

The attachment must contain responses to all of the following items:

- *Background*
  1. Briefly describe your agency, organization, or collaborative.
  2. Describe the issue you want to address and how it relates to health inequities for older adults in Massachusetts.
  3. List the data/information sources you use to understand the health inequities that exist in your community.

- *Approach*
  4. Describe your idea for a policy, systems, or environmental change approach that supports the principles of Age-Friendly Communities.
  5. Briefly explain how this idea will address the SDoH area(s) and improve health outcome(s). Preference will be given to initiatives that complement and/or align with recommendations from the Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts, Community Compact's Best Practices, and Mass in Motion.
  6. Define the community that will be impacted/benefited from this idea/approach and how they will, at a minimum, be engaged in the proposed work. Priority will be given to ideas that come from and are led by populations with lived experience related to the issue being addressed.
  7. Identify key partners you currently have for implementing your activities and the additional partners you will need to engage to make this process a success.

- *Resources*
  8. List the approximate size of the financial investment you are seeking from the Healthy Aging Fund to support this work on an annual basis and the number of years for which you are seeking support.
  9. List any other resources you need to implement your idea, such as training, technical assistance, data/other information. One of the main goals of the Healthy Aging Fund is to support applicants with capacity building training and resources. Topics may include, racial equity, assessment, use of data, policy, systems and environmental change approaches, institutional/structural racism, proposal writing, and budget development.

What happens after I submit an idea?

Applicants will be notified of the status of their submission by **Friday, November 22, 2019**. If you are invited to submit a full proposal, your organization will be expected to engage in a series of capacity building activities aimed at supporting the proposal development process. Full proposals will be due by **Wednesday, January 8, 2020.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTHY AGING FUND AND GRANTMAKING AND CAPACITY BUILDING RESOURCES, CONTACT JENNIFER LEE AT JLEE@HRIA.ORG

OR NINEEQUA BLANDING AT NBLANDING@HRIA.ORG

www.mass.gov/MAHealthFunds