

Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) Funding Stream

The vision of the CHIP funding stream is that **all Massachusetts residents have an equitable opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.** To work towards realizing this vision, the CHIP funding stream will invest in the development and/or implementation of local and/or regional community health improvement planning processes. Support may be requested for any phase of the nine phases of the community health improvement process.

The CHIP funding stream is looking to invest in approaches that will:

- ***Improve population health outcomes***

- The Funds place an emphasis on four health outcomes as defined by DPH: substance use disorders, mental illness/mental health, housing stability/homelessness, and preventing chronic disease with a focus on cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.

- ***Address six social determinants of health***, prioritized by the DPH Commissioner that can change community-level conditions to create more opportunities for healthy living including the Built/Physical Environment, Education, Employment, Socio-Cultural Environment, Housing, and Violence & Trauma.

- ***Disrupt the Root Causes of Health Inequities including Institutional and Structural Racism and other forms of oppression*** – and its effects on well-being and health outcomes. The Funds are using a Leading with Race and Racism approach which recognizes that people of color in Massachusetts have historically and consistently had less opportunity to lead a healthy life. The Funds also recognize that the Root Causes of Health can create barriers to health for all types of populations. As a result, the Funds want communities to Lead with Race and Racism explicitly but not exclusively.

We expect to fund multiple awards between \$10,000 and \$75,000 per year for up to 5 years per award for the development and/or implementation of local and/or regional community health improvement planning processes. Support may be requested for any phase of the community health improvement process.

What is a community health improvement planning process (CHIP)?

A community health improvement plan (CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems based on the results of community health assessment activities and a community health improvement process (see Figure 1). This plan is used by health, human service, and governmental organizations, in

collaboration with community partners, to establish priorities and align resources. A community health improvement plan is critical for developing policies and defining actions to prioritize efforts that promote health. It should define the vision for the health of the community through a collaborative process and address the range of strengths, challenges, and opportunities that exist in a community to improve the health status of all individuals within the community.

Figure 1. Steps in Community Health Improvement Processes.



Source: Adapted by HRiA from the Association for Community Health Improvement

Community health improvement planning processes are most successful when they have:

- A single, grounded and collective process that incorporates health equity and social determinants of health
- Full and broad community engagement
- Clear, focused, and measurable objectives
- Clear definition of realistic outcomes with specific action plans
- Plans that are fully integrated into the work of partner organizations

For additional information on CHIP processes, click [here](#).

Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) Application Questions

Note: These questions are just for reference. You will answer the Organization and Proposal Information questions in the [online application form](#), and the proposal narrative questions in a document, slide show, or video. See the [application guidance](#) for more information about how to submit your proposal.

Organization Information

1. Lead Organization Name
2. Fiscal Sponsor (if applicable)
3. Tax ID of Lead Organization or Fiscal Sponsor (if applicable)
4. Organizational Operating Budget

5. Highest Ranking Official Contact Information
6. Primary Contact Information

Proposal Information

1. Project Title
2. Geographic Area Served
3. Which of the six prioritized social determinants of health will your project directly address?
 - Built Environment
 - Social Environment
 - Housing
 - Violence and Trauma
 - Employment
 - Education
 - Other: _____

4. Which of the four prioritized health outcomes will your project address?
 - Chronic disease with a focus on cancer, heart disease, and diabetes
 - Housing Stability/Homelessness
 - Mental Illness and Mental Health
 - Substance Use Disorders
 - Other: _____
5. Select the CHIP Process Stage(s) that your proposal primarily focuses on (CHECK BOXES)
6. Do you have an existing CHIP Planning Group (YES/NO)
7. If yes, how many years has the group been in existence?

Proposal Narrative Questions

Instructions: Please be as specific as possible in your responses to the questions below. We recognize that people, organizations, and partnerships need to deepen their understanding and know-how about equity and its related practices of community engagement. Because of this, for questions 5 through 9, applicants are asked to be candid about their existing community engagement and equity efforts. Applicants are also encouraged to provide plans for how equity and related community engagement efforts will be deepened. Awardees will receive training and technical assistance on these and other topics so candid responses will enable the targeting of capacity building.

**Word counts are recommendations*

Background

1. Describe your agency, organization, or collaborative and its history and role in community health improvement planning processes. (500 words)
2. Briefly describe the current status of this CHIP process. (100-250 words)
3. Briefly describe how data is currently or will be used in this CHIP process. (100-250 words)

Approach

4. What is the approach to your CHIP process? Identify any additional partners you will need to engage to make this process a success (250-500 words)

5. Describe how this CHIP process addresses or will address the root causes of health inequities. (300-500 words)
6. Define the community members that will be impacted/benefit from this CHIP process and how they will, at a minimum, be engaged in the proposed work (300-500 words)
7. Using the [Guidelines for Community Engagement](#), describe the expected level of community engagement for this CHIP process. *Priority will be given to ideas that come from and are led by populations with lived experience related to the issue being addressed. (i.e BIPOC individuals are part*

of the Board, those who experienced homelessness help design a process, immigrant communities participate in community meetings, etc.) (250-500 words)

8. Identify any additional CHIP processes (including Public Health Accreditation Board accreditation activities) that serve all or part of the geography that will be incorporated and describe how activities will be coordinated. (100-250 words)
9. How do your partners help fulfill your goals? What do they contribute to your partnership? Which entities are currently not part of your partnership that you would like to engage? *Priority will be given to*

those who demonstrate strong partnership and collaboration. (250-400 words)

Resources

ATTACHMENT: Using the budget template provided, please complete a budget including how dollars will be allocated to partners. Applicants are encouraged to include a realistic budget with robust justification for requested funds.

Capacity Building

Your response to the following question will not impact your application. It will be used to provide technical assistance and learning/teaching opportunities for The Funds awardees.

One of the main goals of The Funds is to support applicants with capacity-building training and resources. In 2-3 sentences describe the kinds of capacity-building support and resources you may need to help complete the activities you are proposing (i.e., developing educational materials, etc.)? Topics may include but are not limited to racial equity, assessment, use of data, policy, systems and environmental change approaches, institutional/structural racism, proposal writing, and budget development.