



— Massachusetts —  
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND  
HEALTHY AGING FUNDS

### Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) Funding Stream

The vision of the PSE 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 PSE funding stream will invest in community-centered approaches that are intentional in addressing the root causes of inequitable health outcomes. The focus will be on communities outside of Boston that has not benefitted historically and routinely from previous local DoN community health funding and have high rates of health inequities.

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

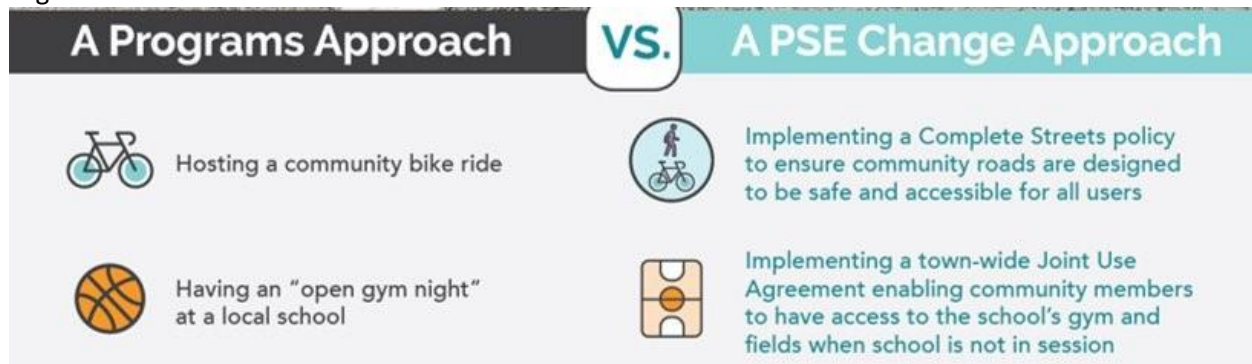
- **Improve population health outcomes** – The Funds place an emphasis on four health outcomes as defined by DPH: substance use disorders, mental illness/mental health, housing stability/homelessness, and preventing chronic disease with a focus on cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.
- **Address six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

*The Funds expect to fund multiple awards between \$50,000 and \$200,000 per year for up to 5 years per award to advance policy, systems, and environmental change approaches. Awards may support both planning and capital investments (e.g. low-interest loans for new healthy retail) within policy, systems and environmental change strategies. Examples of PSE strategies may be found [here](#).*

### Policy, Systems, and Environmental change strategies (PSE strategies).

- **P**olicy change approaches may include a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions.
- **S**ystems change approaches may include changes that impact all elements, including social norms of an organization, institution, or system.
- **E**nvironmental change approaches may include changes to the physical, social, or economic environment. Strategies may focus on geographic or population-based communities at the local, regional, or statewide levels.

Figure 1



Source: Mass in Motion

## Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Change Approach 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 attachment.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Proposal Narrative Questions** \*Word counts are recommendations

*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.*

### **Approach**

1. What do you propose to do with this funding? Is this a new process or an expansion of work that you are currently doing? What is the specific policy, systems or environmental change(s) you expect to achieve? How will your approach **directly** address the [root causes](#) of inequitable health outcomes? (750 words)
2. What will the impact of this work be at the end of this funding? (150-300 words)
3. How will you know if you are successful? How will you measure success? (150-300 words)
4. Who else will you engage in this work and what will they contribute to your partnership? Are there other organizations that you would like to engage? *Priority will be given to those who demonstrate strong partnership and collaboration.* (250-400 words)

ATTACHMENT: Complete the Activities Template by outlining the specific activities your organization will do to achieve your goals.

### **Community Engagement**

5. How is the impacted community engaged in the leadership, design, implementation and/or evaluation of this work? *For example, members of the impacted community sit on decision-making bodies within your organization or collaborative.* (250-350 words)
6. Describe where this work falls within the [public participation spectrum](#), both currently and where you would like the work to be in the future. *Priority will be given to ideas that come from and are led by populations with lived experience related to the issue being addressed.* (150-250 words)

### **Applicant and Partners**

7. Please describe your organization's leadership and Board/Advisory Board structure. How do they make decisions and what roles do stakeholders and community members play in the decision-making process? (200-300 words)
8. What are your organization's current efforts and/or plans to incorporate equity within your organizational policies and practices? What are your partners' current efforts and/or plans to incorporate equity within their organizational policies and practices? (250-350 words)

9. The Funds are committed to addressing the root causes of health inequities, specifically, institutional and structural racism. How do the staff, leadership and Board/Advisory Board of your organization reflect the communities you propose to serve with this funding? Please include de-identified demographic information such as race, gender, ethnicity and age. (300-500 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 negatively 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.