



## Idea Development Checklist & Resources

This is an optional tool to help you prepare an inquiry/idea submission. Provided below is a list of eligibility requirements and principles to keep in mind when preparing a submission for any of the 3 funding streams. This exercise and the included resources can help you create or refine an idea or approach that addresses the root causes of health inequities and aligns with the Funds purpose.

### Is your organization or group Massachusetts-based?

### Are you an eligible entity?

Eligible entities include Massachusetts-based non-profit 501(c)3 organization or groups with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, quasi-governmental organizations, and municipalities.

*Hospitals, for-profit businesses, and colleges/universities are not eligible to apply as lead applicants but can participate as partners. Hospitals who have contributed DoN funds are not eligible to receive any funding.*

### Are you addressing health equity through your approach?

Achieving healthy equity requires ongoing societal efforts to:

01. ADDRESS HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY INJUSTICES
02. OVERCOME ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND OTHER OBSTACLES TO HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE
03. ELIMINATE PREVENTABLE HEALTH DISPARITIES

Communities can promote health equity by adopting policies, programs, and practices that:

- Use accessible and inclusive language
- Represent and engage communities
- Recognize, respect, and support the diversity of the community they serve.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2022)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthequity/whatis/index.html>

Equity can be defined as everyone having a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. To achieve this, we must remove obstacles to health – such as poverty, discrimination, and deep power imbalances. The Funds prioritize populations with high rates of health inequities and proposed approaches that are intentional about addressing health inequities through community-centered policy, systems, and environmental change approaches.

**Resource:** HRiA has developed a [health equity framework](#) that considers our specific work with communities, partners, and awardees.

**Resource:** CDC [What is Health Equity](#)

### Is your work community-centered and community-engaged?

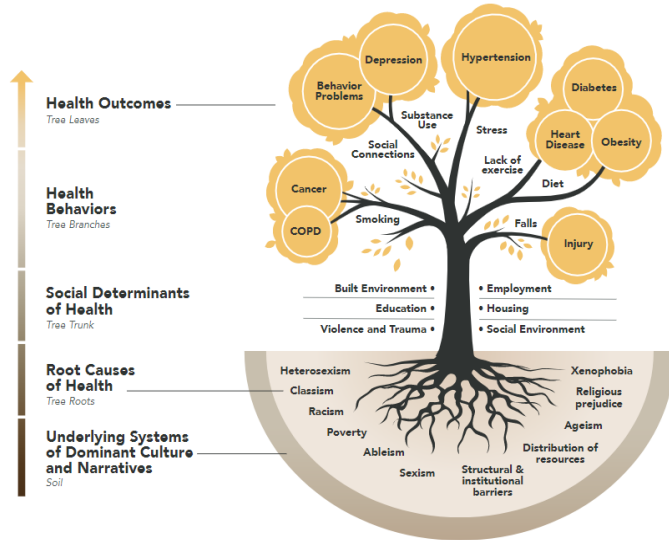
Community can be defined broadly, both geographically or population-based, among people with shared identities, affiliations and affinities. Strong community engagement can strengthen relationships, build trust, and co-develop effective solutions. One model for thinking about community engagement activities is the public participation spectrum.

**Resource:** [Public Participation Spectrum](#) & [Community Commons Getting Started Engaging People with Lived Experience](#)

**Do you or will you address social determinants of health (SDoH)?**

[Social determinants of health](#) are the conditions in which people live their everyday lives including where we are born, live, learn, work, worship, and play. They are important to address as they account for significant variation in health outcomes.

**Have you identified the health outcomes that your approach could impact/improve?**



The Funds place an emphasis on approaches that can improve population health outcomes by addressing the social determinants and root causes of health. Recognizing the connection between the tree’s leaves, branches, trunk, and roots can help to develop effective upstream approaches to addressing negative health outcomes and health inequities.

**Using the [Health EquiTREE model](#), consider the elements your approach relates to or could have impact on (you can use words not included in the tree visual, they are given as examples)**

- Root Causes (Roots): \_\_\_\_\_
- Social Determinants of Health (Trunk): \_\_\_\_\_
- Health Behaviors & Outcomes (Branches & Leaves): \_\_\_\_\_

**Does your approach consider the structural and institutional barriers that impact your community's health?**

[Structural and institutional racism](#) and other forms of oppression need to be understood and disrupted to eliminate inequities in population health outcomes and the social determinants of health (SDoH).

**Does your proposed approach focus on policy, systems, and environmental approaches?**



**DID YOU KNOW** ?

By making changes to laws and rules and shaping environments, communities can go beyond providing programs and services to create long-lasting conditions so people can eat better and move more where they live, learn, work, and play.

Source: Mass and Motion(2023): Policy, System, and Environmental Change

The Funds provide grants to organizations that strive to address the root causes of health inequities through long-term changes. Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes are a way of making sustainable or lasting change within a community to make healthy choices practical and available to all residents. These changes can reduce racial, economic, social, and environmental inequities [Click here to learn more about the difference between a program approach and PSE change approach.](#)

## Community Health Improvement Planning (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. 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.

### ❑ How will you ensure your CHIP approach is community-driven?

*Here are few models that you could base your approach on, and can reference in your description.*

**Resource:** [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\)](#) “is a community-driven strategic planning process to achieve health equity. MAPP provides a structure for communities to assess their most pressing population health issues and align resources across sectors for strategic action. It emphasizes the vital role of broad stakeholders and community engagement, the need for policy, systems, and environmental change, and alignment of community resources toward shared goals. The process results in a community health [needs] assessment (CH[N]A) and a community health improvement plan (CHIP).”

**Resource:** [Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning, from NACCHO](#) provides a description of the steps in a CHA/CHIP process with a focus on community engagement and collaborative participation as essential ingredients. It also includes links to additional resources for each of the six steps and links to additional CHA/CHIP models, frameworks, and guides.

## Healthy Aging

### ❑ Does your approach focus on 1 or more of the Eight Domains of Livability?

Outdoor spaces and buildings  
Transportation  
Housing  
Social Participation  
Respect and Social Inclusion  
Work and Civic Engagement  
Communication and Information  
Community and Health Services

**Resource:** [AARP 8 Domains of Livability: An Introduction](#)

