



— Massachusetts —
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
HEALTHY AGING FUNDS

Massachusetts Community Health & Healthy Aging Funds

Request for Proposal (RFP)

January 2024



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Background & Overview

At-A-Glance

Available Funding	\$15M – we expect to make between 20-25 awards
Grant Start Date	July 1, 2024
Eligible Applicants	Massachusetts based non-profit 501(c)3 organizations of groups with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, quasi-governmental organizations and municipalities are eligible to apply.
Eligible Activities	Community-centered approaches that disrupt barriers to health and their root causes including structural racism, poverty, and deep power imbalances.
Ineligible Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current grantee ** • Hospitals, for-profit businesses, and colleges/universities are not eligible to apply as lead applicants but can participate as partners. Hospitals that have contributed DoN funds are not eligible to receive any funding. In places where hospitals and colleges or universities play key roles as anchor institutions, these entities can be included as a partner or subcontractor (excluding hospitals that have contributed DoN dollars) with a community-based organization as the lead grantee.
Ineligible Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital expenditure • Research
Application Deadline	March 29, 2024, at 11:59 PM EST
Contacts	MACHHAFunds@hria.org
Website	www.mahealthfunds.org/apply

** Current awardees who are Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (regional organizations that represent a wide range of communities) or statewide organizations, and who are in their final 2 years of their current grant, can apply for an approach that reaches a different geography or population.



Background

What are the Massachusetts Community Health & Healthy Aging Funds?

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 Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds (The Funds). Resources for the Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds are from hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare entities that are required to contribute to the Funds the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need Program.

[Click here for additional information on the Determination of Need program.](#)

Purpose

The Funds are an opportunity to reduce health inequities in communities across Massachusetts by addressing the social determinants of health. They represent both a grantmaking and capacity-building resource to assist organizations and communities in addressing the root causes of health inequities, specifically institutional and structural racism. The Funds focus on investing in communities that have not historically and routinely benefitted from Determination of Need funding.

The Funds are guided by the following principles:

- The [Social Determinants of Health \(SDoH\)](#) account for significant variation in [health outcomes](#).
- Policies, systems, and social/physical environments are historically based on [structural and institutional racism](#) and other forms of oppression.
- 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).

Vision

The vision of the Funds is that, through contributions to equitable systems across sectors and the explicit prioritization of people of color and older adults, Massachusetts communities are transformed so that all residents have an equitable opportunity to have the highest quality of life possible.

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 Root Causes can create barriers to health for all types of populations. We encourage communities to lead with Race and Racism explicitly but not exclusively.

What will the MA Community Health & Healthy Aging Funds support?

The Funds invest in approaches that work to identify, understand, and address [Root Causes of Health](#) through policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that positively impact -



community conditions and health outcomes. MA Community Health & Healthy Aging Funds will distribute funding in three areas:

Funding Stream	PSE	CHIP	Healthy Aging
Approach	Policy, systems, and environmental change approaches – local, regional, or statewide levels	Local and regional Community health improvement planning	Healthy aging focused policy, systems, and environmental change approaches – local, regional, or statewide levels
Priority Geography	Communities outside of Boston that have not historically and routinely benefitted from DoN dollars and have high rates of health inequities	Communities outside of Boston that have not historically and routinely benefitted from DoN dollars and have high rates of health inequities	Gateway cities and rural areas that have not routinely benefitted from previous local DoN funding
Priority Populations	Communities with high rates of health inequities	Communities with high rates of health inequities	Older adults; communities with high rates of health inequities
Who can apply	Organizations or coalitions who meet eligibility criteria	Organizations or coalitions leading or participating in a collaborative CHIP process, who meet eligibility criteria	Organizations or coalitions who meet eligibility criteria
Award Amounts	Planning: Up to \$50K/yr, 1-2 yrs Full: Up to \$200K/yr, 3-5 yrs	Planning: Up to \$50K/yr, 1-2 yrs Full: Up to \$375K total, over 5yr	Planning: Up to \$50K/yr, 1-2 yrs Full: Up to \$100K/yr, 3-5 yrs

Planning Grants

Additionally, the Funds will take applications from organizations that seek to move from short-term, time-limited efforts to long-term, sustainable approaches. **Planning Grants** will support planning, technical assistance, capacity building, and provide learning opportunities for emerging Healthy Aging, CHIP, and PSE approaches. This opportunity is to support organizations that seek organizational capacity building and technical assistance with upstream approaches and moving their work toward Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE)Change. **Entities cannot apply for a Planning Grant and a full PSE, CHIP, or Healthy Aging grant.** Recipients of Planning Grants are welcome to apply for a full grant in the next funding cycle. However, funding is not automatically guaranteed for Planning Grant grantees.

Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Change: General

The PSE funding stream will invest in community-centered approaches that intentionally address the root causes of inequitable health outcomes through policy, systems, and/or environmental change. We use the following definitions of PSE change. See more about PSE change here.

- **Policy Change** - Policy change includes the passing or changing of laws also known as legislation, as well as ordinances, resolutions, mandates, regulations, or rules. Government bodies, park districts, healthcare organizations, worksites, and other community institutions (schools, jails, daycares, etc.) all make policies. Policy change strategies include advocacy & education, civic engagement, and power building.
- **Systems Change** - Systems change creates fundamental shifts in how problems are solved and changes the way resources and services get distributed. It involves changes made to the policies, processes, power structures, and relationships within an organization or across organizations.
- **Environmental Change** - Environmental changes involve strategies involve the economic, social, or physical surroundings or contexts that affect health outcomes. Environmental strategies create more lasting change when paired with systems and policy changes.

Healthy Aging

The Healthy Aging funding stream will invest in strategies that focus on the eight domains of livability for age-friendly communities defined by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and [AARP](#). Healthy Aging projects should emphasize the social determinants of health, and policy, systems, and environmental change approaches.

- The Eight Domains of Livability framework is used by many of the towns, cities, counties, and states enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities to organize and prioritize their work to become more livable for both older residents and people of all ages.¹

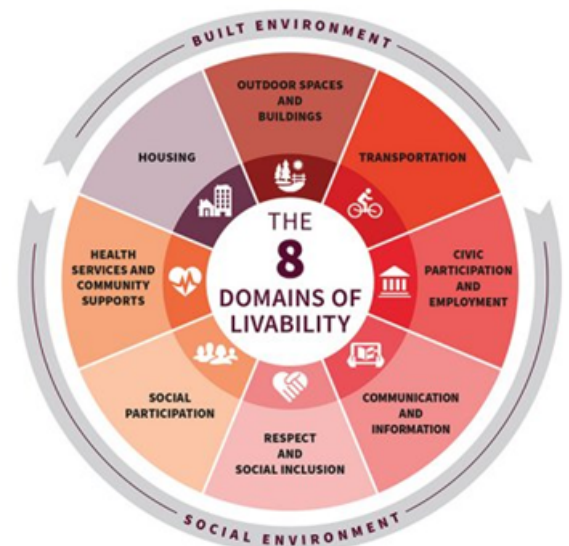


Figure 1. AARP Eight Domains of Livability for Age-Friendly Communities





Community Health Improvement Planning Processes (CHIP)

The CHIP funding stream will invest in the development of local and/or regional CHIPs that help advance policy, systems, and environmental change. During this funding period, we will prioritize the assessment and planning phases of the community health improvement process.

- A CHIP uses Community Health Assessment (CHA) data to identify priority issues, develop and implement strategies for action, and establish accountability to ensure measurable health improvement, which are often outlined in the form of a CHIP. A community health improvement process looks outside of the performance of an individual organization serving a specific segment of a community to the way in which the activities of many organizations contribute to community health improvement.²
- 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 2). 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. Please click [here](#) for more resources on CHIP assessment and planning processes.
- Some key components of the **Assessment** phase of a CHIP involve engaging community members and stakeholders, defining the community, employing equitable data collection methods such as surveys and interviews, prioritizing impactful health issues, and documenting and sharing results in an accessible manner.
- Some key components of the **Planning** phase of a CHIP involve engaging strategic partnerships, setting goals and objectives, assembling an implementation team, developing action plans, measuring progress, and maintaining community engagement throughout.

1 <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2016/8-domains-of-livability-introduction.html>

2 <https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-infrastructure/performance-improvement/community-health-assessment#models-and-frameworks>

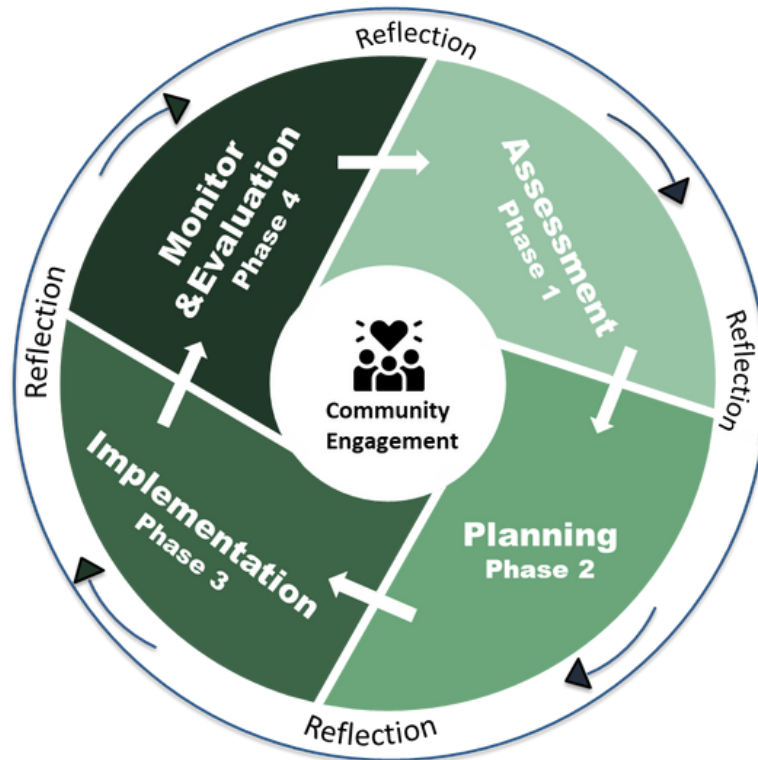


Figure 2. Community Health Improvement Process Phases

Community health improvement assessment and 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
- A clear definition of realistic outcomes with specific action plans
- Plans that are fully integrated into the work of partner organizations

Eligibility

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Massachusetts-based non-profit 501(c)3 organizations or groups with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, quasi-governmental organizations, and municipalities are eligible to apply.

The Funds prioritize:

1. Communities that have not historically and routinely benefited from DoN funding.
2. Communities with high rates of health inequities.
3. Community-based organizations where staff and leadership are reflective of the populations they serve and have lived experience of oppression.



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Application & Review

How do I apply?

Submit your proposal through the online form by **Friday, March 29, 2024, at 11:59 pm EST.**

The application will include:

- Eligibility Questionnaire
- Basic Organization and Contact Information
- Application Questions
- Attachments

Once available, a link to the online application will be posted on www.mahealthfunds.org/apply. For technical and logistical questions related to accessing the online grantmaking portal, or if your organization encounters any barriers to submitting your proposal through the portal, please contact MACHHAFunds@hria.org.

Additional application guidance is available at the end of this document.

What happens after I submit my application?

All applicants will be notified of the status of their submission in June.

How will this proposal be reviewed?

All completed submissions will be reviewed by a statewide review committee. Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with Funding Purpose** – Does the proposal demonstrate a history of and/or outline strategies to disrupt and remove structural barriers to health through community-centered upstream policy, system, and environmental approaches? How does the proposed project support the vision of the Funds?
- **Alignment with Funding Priorities** – Does the proposal serve geographies/populations experiencing high rates of inequities that have not historically and routinely benefitted from DoN dollars?
- **Community Engagement** – Does the proposal outline strategies to connect and build relationships with community members and key stakeholders? How will community members with lived experience of health inequities be involved in the leadership, design, implementation, and evaluation of activities?
- **Collaboration & Partnerships** – Does the proposal demonstrate a history and/or plan to engage diverse, cross-sector organizations? How will power and decision-making be shared amongst key partners?
- **Budget** – Does the budget align with proposed activities? Is the proposal feasible?



What are we expected to do if we receive this grant?

If your organization is selected to receive a grant, HRiA staff will work with you and your staff/volunteers/board to complete:

- **Reporting** - Grantee will remain in communication with HRiA and partners throughout the award period to provide feedback, success stories, lessons learned, and status updates. Grantee will share end of year progress each award year, summarizing work completed to date. In addition, grantee will submit detailed financial expenditures each year. Grantor will establish formal deadlines.
- **Capacity Building** - Throughout the grant period, HRiA will provide learning and capacity building opportunities for grantees. Grantees are expected to attend and participate in as many events as possible.
- **Evaluation** - Grantee will collect and report data metrics as developed in an evaluation plan co-created by the Grantee and HRiA, including:
 - Progress of PSE change strategies
 - Community engagement in their activities
 - Changes in racial equity
 - Community level data
 - Grantees will also be expected to participate in overarching evaluation activities. Examples of these activities could include virtual site visits, short written reporting, surveys, and/or focus groups.

How can we learn more?

- Learn more at: www.mahealthfunds.org/apply. If you have questions, please contact MACHHAFunds@hria.org
- A funding announcement webinar held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, from 2-3:30 PM. The recording and slides are available on our website.
- HRiA will host TA sessions and trainings where applicants can ask questions and get support. Please check the TA support calendar [here](#) for more information.





Application Guidance

For more application guidance please visit [here](#)

General Reminders

- The links for starting a new application and continuing a saved application are different. To continue a saved application, you should login to your Account Page.
- Be sure to save your work as you go. You can Save and Continue to the next section or Save and Finish Later.
- The Application Materials link in the application will bring you to the How to Apply page with all relevant materials. Always be sure to save your work before following a link. Open links in new tabs to avoid losing work.
- Log into the online portal well before the deadline to create an account and familiarize yourself with its format. Consider submitting before the deadline if you're able, in case you encounter any challenges.

Required Materials

- Proposal
- Budget
- Workplan
- Other Attachments

Proposal

- You are welcome to use a slide deck or word document for your proposal – either format can use a mix of bulleted lists, narrative writing, and visual media.
- Feel free to use bullet points to answer the narrative questions, as long as you are able to clearly answer all elements of the question.

Budget

- For each line item, please provide a brief description to show how the item connects to your proposed activities
- Definitions
 - **Employee Compensation** – Salary or wages for any employee of the applicant organization(s) who will work on the project
 - **Non-Employee Compensation** – Stipends or wages for non-staff individuals engaged in the project or program. These might include committee members, volunteers, focus group participants, and individual consultants.
 - **Direct Operating Expenses** - Expenses related to the specific project or program. Examples include travel expenses, advertising materials, staff training, office supplies, and more.



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- **Subcontracts** - If you are giving funds to other partners to do parts of the initiative, list here.
- **Indirect Rate** – Expenses necessary to support an organization’s general operations. Usually shared across projects or programs. Examples include rent and utilities, office furniture, computers, and IT systems. Applicants can request up to 20% for indirect costs.

What to Include

- **Capacity Building/Funds Events** – Awardees are expected to take part in learning opportunities and events. Please budget for funds to cover 1-2 staff to prepare for, take part in, and travel to these meetings, along with other travel-related expenses.
- **Evaluation** - We encourage you to allocate resources that will allow your organization or partnership to evaluate your initiatives. Generally, we recommend at least 10% of your annual project budget be dedicated to evaluation activities. This can be requested from the Funds or covered by other funding sources. Evaluation activities could be done by staff, an individual consultant, or another organization.
- **Compensation and Incentives** – We encourage you to budget for in-depth community engagement. When compensating community members (those who are not paid staff by the organization or subcontractors) for their time, we recommend the following:
 - A minimum amount of \$25/hour or at least a living wage in your region. We encourage paying individuals with an extra role, such as a meeting facilitator, at a higher rate.
 - Translation, interpreting, childcare, and transportation reimbursement offered to support participation in events



