



— Massachusetts —
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
HEALTHY AGING FUNDS

PSE Funding Stream Full Grant Application Questions

1. Summary (1-2 paragraphs) **Please respond to this question by clearly stating the central focus of your proposed project. Your answer should convey both the project's purpose and its intended long-term impact. You will have space in later questions to provide additional details. Be sure to structure your summary according to the bullet points provided below.*
 - a. [Applicant Name] is requesting [\$X] funding amount over [x years] to [Describe your projects overarching goal 1-2 sentences].
 - b. Brief problem statement
 - c. Describe 3-5 key activities you will employ to address the problem.

Policy, systems, and environmental change strategies are a way of making sustainable, lasting change within a community to support healthy environments and behaviors across populations. These strategies create or change infrastructure and modify the contexts in which people live to improve community conditions that promote health. Policy, systems, and environmental changes are often made in combination with each other.

- *Policy change is not just legislation. It includes the passing or changing of laws, 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 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. Systems changes can be unwritten, ongoing, often qualitative organizational decisions/changes. They might precede or follow written policies.*
- *Environmental changes involve changing 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.*

1. Tell us about how you intend to approach policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change work to address the root causes of health inequities in your proposed initiative.
 - a. What root causes and social determinants of health are directly addressed through this approach?
 - b.** What specific PSE changes or types of changes do you seek to make through your work.
 - c. In what ways does your work advance policy, systems, and/or environmental changes that shift power and promote structural equity?
2. What short-term goals will you achieve during the grant, and what are the long-term outcomes do you envision with this work? In your response include the following:

- a. How will you keep the work community driven throughout and beyond the grant period?
 - b. How will you sustain the work after funding ends?
 - c. How will you incorporate health and racial equity into your approach?
3. Describe the community or communities you serve, including the key health challenges or inequities they face, as well as the existing strengths, assets, and opportunities within the community.
 - a. What specific problem, barrier, or inequity is your organization seeking to address, and how did you determine that this issue should be a priority?
 - b. What data, community input, and other factors informed your decision to focus on this issue?
 - c. How will you leverage community strengths, assets, and opportunities in your approach to addressing this problem?
4. Describe the group, organization, agency, partnership, or coalition implementing the approach. Please describe the key strengths of your organization, coalition, etc.?
 - a. Mission/Vision
 - b. Brief history
5. List up to 5 key partners, their roles, and how you will work together. How will these partnerships be leveraged to deepen impact, build collective power, and ensure accountability to the communities you serve?
6. How does your organization center the voices, leadership, and lived experiences of community members, especially those most impacted by health inequities, in shaping and guiding this work? What role will they or have they played in the leadership, design, implementation, and evaluation of this work? [Please review the Public Participation Spectrum for more context](#)
7. Describe your plan for cultivating long-term, reciprocal relationships with community members. How will you ensure these connections are sustained beyond the life of this funding?
 - a. Tell us about a previous community engagement challenge your organization faced and how you overcame it.
8. The Funds are committed to addressing the root causes of health inequities, specifically, institutional and structural racism. Describe the top three ways your organization is currently advancing or actively working to advance health and racial equity through its internal policies, practices, and culture. Highlight specific strategies, decision-making processes, or accountability mechanisms that reflect this commitment.

Previous or Current MACHHAF Awardee Question:

1. What changes have you observed in your community as a result of your previous MACHHAF efforts?
 - a. Can you share one success story from your MACHHAF work? How do you plan to build on that success moving forward?
 - b. What challenges did you encounter during your previous work, and how do you plan to address them in the future?
 - c. Are you seeking funding as a continuation of your existing Funds work or is it for a new initiative?

Optional & No points question:

1. In light of ongoing public health challenges, shifting political landscapes, and evolving community needs, how has your organization adapted its strategies or programming to respond to emerging issues affecting the populations you serve?