



— Massachusetts —
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
HEALTHY AGING FUNDS

PSE Funding Stream Planning 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 2-3 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*
2. 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 led your organization to identify the specific barrier or inequity you aim to address?
 - b. What data, community input, or other factors inform that decision?
 - c. Describe 2-3 key activities you will employ to address the problem.
 - d. What are your goals for the planning phase? What do you hope to accomplish through this planning phase?

3. Describe the group, organization, agency, partnership, or coalition implementing the approach. Please describe the key strengths of your organization, coalition, etc?
 - e. Mission/Vision
 - f. Brief history
4. Tell us how your organization is planning to address the root causes of health inequities through policy systems and environmental change, as well as the existing strengths, assets, and opportunities within the community. In your response, please include:
 - g. What opportunities have you identified to move from short-term programs (like direct services) to long-term, sustainable strategies that change policies, systems, or environments? What challenges do you anticipate in making this PSE shift, and what support would help you overcome them?
 - h. How are you engaging community members, especially those most affected in identifying and shaping these strategies?
 - i. How will you ensure that health and racial equity are central to your approach?
5. List 2-3 key partners involved in your planning process. For each, describe their role and how you will collaborate during the grant period.
6. 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.
7. How will this planning grant help prepare you for future policy systems and environmental change implementation funding?

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?