

# 2024 HEALTHY AGING INITIATIVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

# MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

## GRANT TIMELINE

April 22, 2024	Grant portal opened for applicants
May 16, 2024	Concept papers (two pages) due by <a href="#">email at</a> 5:00 p.m. ET (strongly encouraged)
June 17, 2024	Application due by 5:00 p.m. ET
November 7, 2024	Awards announced

## A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Healthy Aging Initiative aims to improve the health and wellness of Michigan's older adults and their caregivers, while reducing the cost of care. To achieve this aim, the initiative seeks to support projects that will collectively make meaningful progress toward improving the quality of care for older adults in the health care system, coordinating care in the community that will improve health outcomes and lower overall costs, and providing more support at home for formal and informal (family) caregivers.

### PRIORITY AREAS

The Healthy Aging Initiative has identified priority areas for this year to complement the Health Fund's Strategic Plan. These are presented for your consideration as you develop your proposal, but your proposal is not required to address a specific priority area.



**Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias** – Projects that improve the quality of life for those living with dementia and those who care for them.



**Direct Care Workforce** – Develop collaboratives, pilot programs, or other innovative approaches that can inform policy to improve care and address the worsening shortage of health care providers serving older adults.



**Elder Justice** – Develop collaborative approaches to identifying, supporting, and improving the health and quality of life for older adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or discrimination.



**Respite** – Projects that aim to develop innovative respite programs or increase the availability of current respite opportunities for caregivers, through providers or informally in the community.



**Rural Health** – Projects that enhance health care delivery and improve the health and quality of life for older adults and caregivers living in rural areas across Michigan.



**Social Determinants of Health** – Projects that seek to develop, scale, and sustain referral partnerships with health care, community-based or other organizations to address social factors that impact health care use and outcomes.

## ADDRESSING DISPARITIES AND PROMOTING HEALTH EQUITY

Across all priority areas, the Health Fund seeks proposals that address disparities and promote health equity. What does that look like? Equitable programs:

1. Benefit or increase access for populations most affected by a health issue;
2. Remove barriers to health;
3. Empower communities; and
4. Engage community leaders and members in decision-making

## B. ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT AMOUNT

### ELIGIBILITY

Nonprofits, local units of government, and the State of Michigan are eligible for grants. To be eligible to apply for a grant under this initiative, applicants must:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization;
- Serve Michigan residents;
- Have a current certified financial audit or independently reviewed financial statements; and
- Have at least 1 FTE.

### EXCLUDED FROM FUNDING CONSIDERATION

- Clinical research
- Loans
- Health-related emergencies\*
- Capital projects
- Litigation
- Ongoing program operations and staffing
- Lobbying activities
- Tuition costs and related fees
- Organizations that discriminate because of age, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender

\* The Health Fund might in some situations consider support to address longer-term rebuilding or other needs following emergency situations.

### GRANT AMOUNT

The Health Fund anticipates awarding grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000. We welcome proposals toward the smaller end of that range. Applicants may apply for a one- or two-year grant, but the total request is limited to \$500,000. Please be sure to clearly identify your funding requests per year in your proposal, along with any other associated program revenue.

An organization may apply for a grant no larger than 20% of its annual operating budget. Fiduciary, or financial sponsor, agreements may be considered for small organizations to meet the budgetary or eligibility requirements listed below. We welcome ideas from all types of eligible organizations, regardless of size or funding request.

Applicant organizations with annual operating budgets less than \$10 million may request indirect costs up to 30% of the total grant budget. Applicant organizations with annual operating budgets at or above \$10 million may request indirect costs up to 20% of the total grant budget. The percentage is based on the primary applicant's operating budget size. The indirect cost line item should include indirect costs for all project partners.

## C. REVIEW CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

### REVIEW CRITERIA

Here's what we look for when program staff and subject matter experts review proposals. We don't expect proposals to include all of these, but we encourage you to be clear about how your project addresses one or more (not a prioritized list):

- **Collaboration.** The project demonstrates collaboration, including community/participant involvement in planning and implementation, multi-sector partnerships with defined roles and responsibilities related to the project, and leverage of external resources.
- **Empowering communities.** The project empowers communities to support their ongoing health needs or challenges, and it engages with community leaders to share in decision-making.
- **Health equity.** The project benefits the populations most affected by the health issue, removes barriers to health, empowers communities to support their ongoing health needs or challenges, and engages with community leaders to share in program design and decision-making.
- **Innovation.** The project supports new or enhanced programs or strategies.
- **Long-term impact.** The project has the potential to achieve significant long-term impact by implementing effective models or supporting needed innovation.
- **Measurable outcomes.** The project has clear outcomes and the potential to have a measurable impact on improving health or quality of life.
- **Strategic alignment.** The project aligns with the Health Fund's mission, strategies, and goals and with the priorities in this RFP.

### EVALUATION

All proposals must submit a document outlining a proposed project evaluation approach. This document should not exceed three pages in length, and a one-page document is sufficient. This evaluation approach could be a logic model or a theory of change, or another format.

The document should describe the relationship between project activities, outputs, short- and long-term outcomes, and overall impact(s). Short-term outcomes are outcomes that will be achieved during the performance period of the grant. Long-term outcomes detail the impact that grant will have beyond the performance period.

For some helpful resources to develop an evaluation approach, [read the Health Fund's Evaluation Approach: A How-To Guide](#) and the [Healthy Aging Measurement Recommendations](#), which details common measures our projects frequently use. Applicants are not required to use the resources provided to develop their approach.

## D. APPLICATION PROCESS

### KEY STEPS

1. Submit a two-page concept paper via [email](#) by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on May 16.
2. Applicant receives initial feedback, including whether the concept is likely to be competitive.
3. Apply using Health Fund grant portal by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on June 17.
4. Applications are reviewed by program staff and subject matter experts. We may follow up with clarifying questions.
5. Awards are announced.

## CONCEPT PAPERS

We know proposals that have a concept paper are more competitive, so we ask that we learn more about your idea before you submit a proposal. If you decide to send a concept paper, please address the following in **no more than two single-spaced pages**:

- Project title and organization name
- Project start date and end date
- Geographic reach of project, area the project intends to serve
- Problem statement or key issue you aim to address
- Brief overview of the project, including potential impact – short and long term.
- Key collaborative partners and responsibilities of each partner
- Estimated draft budget

Concept papers need to be submitted by email [to grants@mihealthfund.org](mailto:to_grants@mihealthfund.org) by May 16, 2024, to be considered.

## APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted electronically through the Health Fund website [using the grant portal](#). Using Google Chrome, applicants will first be required to create an account. It may take 48 hours for your account to be approved. Once approved you will receive login credentials via email.

While the grant portal does not have a word limit function, we require applicants to keep the total narrative within the equivalent of 10 standard pages. The Health Fund also reserves the right to confidentially share proposals with external reviewers and other foundation partners.

**Full proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2024. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**

## E. MORE INFORMATION AND FURTHER QUESTIONS

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of health care, with a special focus on children and seniors.

For helpful tips and additional information, please visit [the initiative page](#) on our website. For more information on our grantmaking, view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

If you have further questions, please contact a Healthy Aging Initiative staff member at [mihealthfund.org/about/staff](https://mihealthfund.org/about/staff).

**The Health Fund Board of Directors has sole responsibility for all grant decisions.**