

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MICHIGAN HEALTH
ENDOWMENT FUND

GRANT TIMELINE

MAY 5, 2025

Grant portal open for applications

JUNE 4, 2025

Concept Papers (**required — 2 pages max**) due by email at 5 p.m.

JULY 15, 2025

Proposals due at 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2025

Awards announced

DECEMBER 1, 2025

Earliest start date for funded projects

[Click here](#) to register for our webinar on May 21, when we will provide more information and answer common questions.

A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Community Health Impact Initiative supports health-focused, community-based organizations with bold ideas that empower communities to solve their most pressing health issues and successfully implement health-focused, community-driven interventions.

These grants are intended to support stronger, healthier communities around the state by being responsive to community needs. We are strongly prioritizing support for **grassroots organizations, neighborhood groups, and small and medium-sized nonprofits.**

We're interested in projects that will have a lasting impact in a community and favor proposals that show a strong collaborative effort between organizations with a shared vision or goal to address the health issue. Successful applications will also be able to demonstrate how the work will continue in the community past the grant period. Letters of support from collaborative partners committed to the project's success and sustainability will strengthen applications.

We estimate a total grantmaking budget of approximately \$1 million in 2025 and expect a highly competitive grant round.

TOPICS

Proposals should focus on eliminating health disparities, improving health equity, building community wellness, increasing social integration for marginalized populations, bolstering community support systems, and expanding health-related community engagement efforts. Specific topics might include but are not limited to proposals to improve oral health access, health literacy, health-related transportation, or environmental health.

Proposals related to the priorities of our [Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles](#), [Behavioral Health](#), [Healthy Aging](#), and [Maternal and Infant Health](#) programs will not be considered under Community Health Impact. Organizations should wait until those cycles are open to apply.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

We know that those who experience a health issue often have a clear understanding of their own challenges and needs, and our Community Health Impact Initiative funds programs where those affected are helping drive the solutions. Proposals should demonstrate that the community and partner organizations have asked for this programming, that it is specific to their community, and that it addresses specific health issues.

Applicants are required to [work with community members](#) in the planning, design, and/or implementation of the program, and proposals that fail to describe how this will happen are not likely to be competitive. Proposals that clearly demonstrate intentional partnership with community members will be prioritized. Applicants may access tools to help them develop their [community engagement plans here](#).

Projects should target a specific place such as a neighborhood, school(s), city, county, or region and/or a specific group within a defined geography. Applicants will be asked to provide qualitative or quantitative community-level data, when possible, to identify and explain the health need.

B. ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT AMOUNT

ELIGIBILITY

Nonprofits, local units of government, federally recognized Tribes, 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 tax-exempt organization;
- Serve Michigan residents;
- Have a current certified financial audit or independently reviewed financial statements; and
- Have at least one paid FTE (e.g., one full-time employee or two half-time employees)

NOTE ON ORGANIZATION SIZE

Larger organizations or those with capacity to implement work through discretionary dollars are less likely to be funded through this initiative. This approach allows us to equitably support initiatives where external funding is more critical to success.

We expect that the primary applicant in this grant program will be a community-based organization unless a fiduciary is required. Projects that include partnerships with a university or health system should be submitted under the community-based organization's name.

EXCLUDED FROM FUNDING CONSIDERATION

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuition costs and related fees |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizations that discriminate because of age, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health-related emergencies* | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital projects and major equipment purchases, including vehicles | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Litigation | *The Health Fund might in some situations consider support to address longer-term rebuilding or other needs following emergency situations. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing program operations and staffing | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lobbying activities | |

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Grant requests may not exceed a **maximum budget of \$200,000**. Grants can be up to **2 years in duration, but the total request is limited to \$200,000**.

The Health Fund recognizes the importance of supporting indirect expenses and encourages organizations to request the maximum amount to support those costs.

Applicant organizations with operating budgets of less than \$10 million may request indirect costs up to 30% of the total grant budget. Applicant organizations with 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. We expect the indirect cost line item to include indirect costs for all project partners.

C. APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: CONCEPT PAPER, REQUIRED

Applicants are **required** to submit a two-page concept paper for feedback prior to receiving an invitation to submit a full proposal. Concept papers that are competitive will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal. Non-competitive concept papers will not be invited to apply.

Due to the grant program's high demand and competitive nature, this step allows applicants to refine invited proposals, while preventing others from investing significant time on applications not aligned with our funding priorities.

Please note that concept papers longer than two pages will not be accepted.

The concept paper should include the following sections in this order:

- Organization name and mission
- Project information
- Title
- Brief description of health issue being addressed
- Project description
- List of key partners and their role
- How the project will continue to live on in the community once the grant period ends
- Estimated budget (no detailed breakdown required, just tell us what the budget will cover and the total amount you intend to request).

Send your concept papers to grants@mihealthfund.org by 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2025.

STEP 2: APPLICATION, BY INVITATION ONLY

Applications must be submitted through the [Health Fund's grants portal](#) after confirmation of invitation by our staff. While the grantee portal does not have a word limit function, please limit the total narrative to the equivalent of eight single spaced pages using standard 12-point type and one-inch margins. Attachments do not count toward the eight-page limit.

Full proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2025.

D. MORE INFORMATION AND FURTHER QUESTIONS

HELPFUL HINTS

- **Clearly explain your project and the issues it will address.** Be prepared to describe the who, what, where, when, and how of the initiative. Limit the use of buzzwords and jargon throughout your proposal in favor of plain language that accurately describes your intended impact.
- **Community input leads to stronger programs.** Reviewers will be looking for projects that clearly and directly respond to issues identified by communities and involve community input in the process. Think beyond surveys or needs assessments and invite those you serve to have a seat at the table in the planning, design, implementation, and/or evaluation of your program to ensure an equitable approach, promote engagement, and improve outcomes.
- **Collaboration is essential.** The most effective programs we support often involve multiple community partners. We'll look at whether you're engaged with relevant stakeholders, and how their participation is informing your proposal.
- **Health outcomes are key.** Connect the dots and tell us how your activities will lead to better health for members of the community. Select outcomes that will help you know how your grant is doing. The outcomes you choose to measure should be related to your grant activities, should change over time, and can be qualitative or quantitative. [Please click here](#) for more information about the Community Health Impact outcomes.
- **Impact beyond the grant.** Describe how the project has the potential to achieve long-term impact by implementing effective models, supporting needed innovation, is time-limited by design, or developing programs that can be sustainably funded or implemented beyond the completion of the grant.

For more information:

- Read the [Community Health Impact program page](#)
- View our [FAQ](#)
- View the [application worksheet](#) to preview the application questions and required documents
- Check out our list of [resources for health data, models of collaboration, and other tools](#)
- Check out our resource for the [Community Health Impact outcome measures](#). If you have additional questions about how to select an outcome measure, please contact Veronica Marchese (veronica@mihealthfund.org).

If you have further questions, please contact us at grants@mihealthfund.org. **The Health Fund Board of Directors has sole responsibility for all grant decisions.**