

GRANT TIMELINE

March 2	Grants portal opened for applicants
March 30	Concept papers due in grants portal by 5:00 p.m. ET (strongly encouraged)
June 4	Application due in grants portal by 5:00 p.m. ET
November 5	Awards announced
December 1	Earliest start date for funded projects

A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As we age, we all deserve opportunities to maintain our health, well-being, and independence, even when we run into unexpected challenges. That is why the Health Fund’s Healthy Aging program is committed to improving the health and quality of life of Michigan’s older adults and their caregivers, while reducing the cost of care.

To achieve this aim, the program supports 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 for family or professional caregivers.

PRIORITY AREAS

The Healthy Aging team has identified four priority areas to make advancements toward program goals, and to complement Michigan’s strong network of aging programs and the state’s broader health care landscape that serves us all as we age. These are presented for your consideration as you develop your proposal. Strategic alignment is a factor we consider when we review proposals:

- **Access to Care** — We will invest in efforts to increase utilization of preventative, behavioral, palliative care or other services for older adults, with a focus on populations that face disproportionate barriers to care.
- **Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias** — We will support projects that improve the health or quality of life for those living with dementia and those who care for them.
- **Caregiving** — We will prioritize efforts to improve the health or quality of life of family caregivers of older adults with a focus on innovative respite care models and increasing retention rates of professional caregivers supporting older adults.
- **Elder Justice** — We will focus on collaborative efforts to implement proven prevention strategies and develop projects that identify and improve the health and quality of life for older adults who are victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

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

A competitive proposal will be impactful, collaborative and meaningfully engage with older adults and/or caregivers to develop feasible solutions to address the issues or problems we face as we all age. Proposals with potential to inform broader policy or systems change efforts in Michigan will be more competitive.

Across our priority areas, we'll consider workforce-related projects that aim to ensure we have enough ready, willing, and able health professionals, along with proposals that utilize technology to improve the health of Michigan's older adults and caregivers.

B. ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT AMOUNT

ELIGIBILITY

Nonprofits, federally recognized Tribes, local units of government, and the State of Michigan are eligible for grants. Organizations do not need to be based in Michigan, but all project activities must occur in Michigan. 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;
- Have a current audit or independently reviewed financial statements (preferred) or 990 (accepted); and
- Have at least one paid FTE (e.g., one full-time employee or two half-time employees)

EXCLUDED FROM FUNDING CONSIDERATION

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lobbying activities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuition costs and related fees |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health-related emergencies* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizations that discriminate because of age, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital projects | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Litigation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing operations and staffing costs for ongoing programs | |

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

GRANT AMOUNT

Organizations may apply for up to \$750,000. Generally, projects that receive the maximum grant size often have large, regional or statewide impact and have detailed, measurable strategies aimed at improving health outcomes and/or quality of life for the population served.

We welcome proposals of any size and scope from all types of eligible organizations if it will make progress toward our identified program priorities.

Applicants may apply for a one or two-year grant, but the total request is limited to \$750,000. Please be sure to clearly identify your funding requests per year in your proposal, along with any other associated program revenue.

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

organizations may request up to 30% of the total grant budget for indirect costs. All indirect costs, including those charged by project partners, subcontractors or consultants, count toward the indirect cost limit.

C. REVIEW CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

REVIEW CRITERIA

We consider the following criteria when reviewing proposals:

- **Strategic alignment.** The project aligns with the Health Fund's mission, strategies, and goals centering on children and older adults. We seek proposals that address disparities and promote health equity and support interconnected solutions that address community needs in alignment with broader systems change efforts. Proposals should demonstrate how the work fits within the Health Fund's [strategic framework](#) and aligns with the priorities outlined in this RFP.
- **Impact.** The Health Fund supports projects that have clear, attainable outcomes that will improve the health or quality of life for Michigan residents locally, regionally, or statewide. Strong proposals clearly articulate both the short-term outcomes that will be achieved during the grant period and any potential long-term outcomes that may occur after the grant concludes (e.g., replicability).
- **Collaboration.** The project demonstrates deep collaboration beginning with community or participant involvement in planning and implementation. We seek proposals that leverage multi-sector partnerships with defined roles, responsibilities, and expertise and that build upon trusted relationships to maximize impact.
- **Feasibility.** We consider whether the project can realistically be completed as outlined in the work plan and has a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. In addition, whether the organization or partnership has or can quickly build an experienced, committed team to accomplish the work. The timeline and budget must be realistic and align with the proposed impact. We look for thoughtful use of funds with a clear plan for implementation.

D. APPLICATION PROCESS

KEY STEPS

1. Submit a concept paper via [our grants portal](#) by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on March 30.
2. Applicant receives initial feedback, including whether the concept is likely to be competitive.
3. Apply using Health Fund grants portal by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on June 4.
4. Applications are reviewed by program staff and subject matter experts. Clarifying questions may be sent.
5. Awards are announced.

CONCEPT PAPERS

Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to submit a concept paper for feedback prior to working on a full proposal. Concept papers must be submitted through the form in [our grants portal](#) and should be no more than two pages (10,000 characters, including spaces).

NEW FOR 2026: All concepts will be managed through the Health Fund's grants portal, so you will need an account in order to submit a concept paper. **New users must request an account by March 23** using the "Create an account now" button on [our grants portal](#) login page. We cannot guarantee timely access to the portal for requests received after that date.

Applicants should prepare to address the following in their concept paper:

- Project title
- Estimated request amount
- Geographic reach of your project
- Project narrative, including:
 - Problem statement or key issue you aim to address
 - Brief overview of the project
 - Potential impact (short- and long-term)
 - Timeline / duration
 - Key collaborative partners and responsibilities of each partner
 - Brief description of how the estimated request amount would be spent

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted through the Health Fund's [grants portal](#).

NOTE: Applicants who submit a concept paper should **not** create an application in the portal. Their concept paper will be automatically converted to an application form after the concept review is complete. Applicants can view our [application worksheet](#) to preview the list of questions and required documents. Applicants may also add other staff to the application as needed.

If additional staff need access and do not have credentials for the grants portal, please have each new user request an account by **May 28** using the "Create an account now" button on [our grants portal](#) login page. We cannot guarantee timely access to the portal for requests received after that date.

While the application does not have a page limit function, please limit the total narrative to the equivalent of 8 single-spaced pages using standard 12-point type and one-inch margins. Attachments do not count towards the 8-page limit. 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 p.m. on June 4. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

E. OTHER RESOURCES

[The Healthy Aging Measurement Guide](#) offers applicants a sample of measures to assess the progress of your work within five broad categories: Adverse Events, Health Maintenance & Satisfaction, Holistic Approach to Care, Programming Success and Caregiver Support.

Using this guide is optional. It has been provided to support applicants if you need guidance and support to track progress on the proposed work outlined in your application. This guide may also be helpful if applicants intend to leverage progress or data from the work completed in this grant application to help secure future funding.

F. 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 healthcare, 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 grants@mihealthfund.org.

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