



2017 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT OPPORTUNITY

A. MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND OVERVIEW

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund was established to improve the health of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of health care with special emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors. The Fund was created through the passage of Public Act 4 of 2013, which authorized certain changes to how Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) operates in the state.

GRANTMAKING APPROACHES

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund is dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the health and wellness of Michigan's children and seniors. To achieve this impact, the Health Fund has adopted a hybrid strategy that incorporates both responsive grantmaking and proactive initiatives. More information on this grantmaking strategies can be found in the Fund's [Grantmaking at a Glance](#) publication.

PROACTIVE INITIATIVES: ISSUE AREAS AND GOALS

The Health Fund Board of Directors has identified three issues of critical need where the Fund could make a significant difference and adopted these issues as the cornerstone of the Fund's proactive initiatives. These issue areas are 1) behavioral health, with emphasis on children and seniors 2) healthy aging and 3) nutrition and healthy lifestyles, focusing on children.

The Board has also identified two cross-cutting goals to guide its Proactive Grantmaking.

1. Build, extend, and strengthen workforce capacity through:
 - Training and development for clinicians, program staff, and informal caregivers; and
 - Innovative and cost-effective approaches to improve the physical and mental health of children and seniors in Michigan.
2. Develop and expand innovative and cost-effective integration models that coordinate care, services, and community resources in ways that promote the health of children and seniors in Michigan.

B. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Many experts make the case that it is impossible to tackle physical health issues without also addressing behavioral health. For both children and seniors, barriers to detection and treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders can include a lack of available specialists, insurance restrictions, uncoordinated delivery of services, and stigma.

People with mental health and substance use disorders die, on average, decades earlier than individuals without these conditions. Many of these deaths are related to untreated chronic illnesses including hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Individuals with multiple chronic health conditions often face many barriers to accessing services, including challenges in navigating the complexity of the healthcare system. Integration of behavioral health care (including both mental health and substance use disorder treatment) with primary care and other supports has proven to be an effective strategy to care for individuals with complex healthcare needs.

The aim of this proactive behavioral health initiative is to improve access to high quality, person-centered, and integrated mental health and substance use disorder services for Michigan residents. In order to achieve these improvements, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund seeks to support the implementation of strategies and service models that will improve prevention, early identification and intervention, and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, with an emphasis on children and older adults.

Applicants must address at least one of the two cross-cutting goals identified above related to integration models and workforce capacity.

Integration: The Health Fund is specifically interested in models that systematically integrate mental health, substance use, and medical care providers to meet all of a person's health needs, no matter where they seek care.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) have used a [conceptual framework to define six levels of collaboration](#) including coordinated care, collocated care, and integrated care. The Health Fund aims to support projects that fall under integrated care, meaning those that include collaborative or joint treatment planning for shared patients and where patients experience their care as a single system treating the whole person.

Workforce: The Health Fund is specifically interested in proposals to implement new approaches to build, strengthen, and expand the behavioral health workforce. This may include new models of team based care, approaches to more effectively utilize providers or staff, or other approaches to expand a diverse and talented workforce.

The Fund is seeking proposals from qualifying nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support a number of categories, including:

- Implementation of innovative care delivery models that are evidence-based, emerging, or promising practices.

- Expansion of models that support integration of behavioral health and primary care services, including integration at the point of care, sharing of health information among providers, and cross training of providers.
- Community-based responses to the opioid epidemic and/or strategies to address Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.
- Use of technology to improve access to or quality of care.
- New strategies to address workforce challenges.

The Fund expects that all funded projects will be based on the principles of recovery, inclusion and freedom of choice.

RESOURCES THAT MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS

The Health Fund has identified the following resources which may be useful tools for applicants to consider in the development of proposals.

- [SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions](#)
- [Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health](#)
- [Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force: Report of Findings and Recommendations for Action](#)
- [Growing Older: Providing Integrated Care for an Aging Population](#)
- [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care](#)
- [Health Resources and Services Administration: National Projections of Supply and Demand for Behavioral Health Practitioners: 2013-2025](#)

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT, A PROPOSAL MUST:

- Clearly describe the proposed activities and what specifically the grant funds would be used for, especially if other funding will support the proposed initiative.
- Identify a clear path to long-term sustainability. Applicants must demonstrate how the grant activities would be sustained outside the grant period. This could include strategies that seek to inform public policy.
- Support new or enhanced programs or strategies. Proposals will not be considered if funds would be used to maintain an existing program, or used solely to fill a budget gap for current services.
- Incorporate at least one of the [two cross-cutting goals](#) established by the Health Fund Board.
- Fit most or all of the criteria identified under [Section D. Use of Funds](#).
- See *Eligibility* section for more requirements.

2017 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT TIMELINE	
January 11, 2017	MHEF grant portal opened for applicants
February 6, 2017	Concept papers due by 5 p.m. (optional)
February 23, 2017	Applications due by 5 p.m.
July 26, 2017	Awards announced
August 2017	Grants processed

C. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a grant under this program, the applicant must:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization,
- Be based in Michigan,
- Have a current certified financial audit, and
- Have at least 1 FTE.

Local units of government and the State of Michigan are also eligible to apply.

D. USE OF FUNDS

PROPOSALS THAT FIT MOST OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE:

- Have strong potential to achieve significant long-term impact by implementing effective models or supporting needed innovation
- Incorporate viable plans for long-term sustainability
- Aim to improve health outcomes and reduce health costs
- Offer opportunities for collaboration and other forms of leverage
- Address underlying social and root causes of poor health
- Focus on groups, populations, or communities that face disproportionate barriers to improved health
- Support person-centered care and engage and empower individuals and communities to take an active role in creating a culture of health
- Offer opportunities for learning and knowledge dissemination
- Offer opportunities to inform public policy

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCLUDED FROM FUNDING CONSIDERATION:

- Requests relating to health-related emergencies (though the Health Fund might in some situations consider support to address longer-term rebuilding or other needs following emergency situations)
- Clinical research
- Capital projects (very few exceptions will be considered)
- Ongoing program operations and staffing

- Loans
- Litigation
- Lobbying activities
- Organizations which discriminate because of age, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, handicap or sex.

E. GRANT SIZE

The Health Fund expects to award grants ranging to a maximum of \$500,000. An organization may not apply for a grant that is larger than 20% of its annual operating budget.

You may apply for a one or two-year grant, but the total request is limited to \$500,000. Please be sure to clearly identify the amount of funding requested per year in your proposal.

No more than 10% of the total grant budget may be allocated to indirect/administrative costs.

The Health Fund expects the Behavioral Health Grant program to be very competitive. The Fund anticipates awarding 8-10 grants in this program with an average grant size of \$400,000.

F. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Health Fund will use the following criteria in evaluating applications:

- The extent to which the proposed project fits the mission, strategies, and the cross-cutting goals of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund
- The potential for the proposed project to have a positive measurable impact on the health of the population being served
- The ability of the proposed project to address an unmet need
- The potential for the project to be sustainable after the end of the grant period, if appropriate
- The applicant's demonstration of collaboration including leveraging of other resources
- The potential for the project to be replicated and produce similar results in other settings
- The potential to inform public policy, including opportunities for learning and knowledge dissemination

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

G. REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must agree to the following requirements:

- Identify the Michigan Health Endowment Fund as the source of funding in any program communications
- Set specific outcomes for the proposed program, monitor progress toward achieving expected outcomes and report progress on a regular basis to the Health Fund
- Participate in any data collection and evaluation activities conducted by the Health Fund and its contractors
- Participate in grantee gatherings and other activities that support dissemination of knowledge

H. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted electronically through the Health Fund website using the Grant Portal – click [here](#).

Using Google Chrome, applicants will first be required to [create an account](#). It may take 48-72 hours for your account to be approved. Once approved, you will receive login credentials via email.

Once you have an account with Fluxx, please login and select “Home Page.” Then, scroll down to “New Application.” All application questions are listed within the RFP.

While the online Fluxx grant management system does not have a word limit function, we respectfully request that applicants keep the total narrative within the equivalent of 10 pages (for example, if the narrative were in Word, using standard 12-point type and one inch margins).

Please be sure to clearly describe proposed activities and what specifically the grant funds would be used for, especially if other funding will support the proposed initiative.

The Health Fund welcomes concept paper submissions of up to 2 pages, including a draft budget, for review and feedback prior to submission. Concept papers should be sent to becky@mhealthfund.com and must be submitted any time before 5:00 p.m. on February 6, 2017. **Full proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2017.**

APPLICANTS WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. An executive summary (no more than two paragraphs) of the proposed grant activities and the intended outcomes
2. A brief summary of the organization's history, mission, and how this project aligns with the mission and organizational priorities
3. Definition of the health problem(s), challenges(s), or need(s) to be addressed. This should include documentation of the defined need(s) within the target population and expected number of individuals to be served by the proposed activities.
4. A plan that describes specific activities proposed and how the activities will impact health status, including a project plan with measurable objectives, key activities and timeframes
5. Specific outcomes for the project, the timeframe within which they will occur and how they will be measured
6. Description of how and with whom the organization will collaborate on this specific project
7. Description of how the project will address at least one of the Health Fund's two crosscutting goals.
8. Description of how the project can be useful to other organizations or could impact health delivery or policy
9. Description of how the proposed activities will be sustained after the grant period
10. A budget that describes costs by category including staffing, supplies, travel, contracts, administration, etc. as well as in-kind support and any other program revenue
11. Summary of the applicant organization's history and experience addressing health issues
12. Cover letter signed by the President of the applying organization
13. Copy of the current IRS determination letter indicating 501(C)(3) tax-exempt status
14. List of Board of Directors with Affiliations
15. Organization's current annual operating budget, including expenses and revenue
16. Organization's most recent annual financial audit
17. Organizational chart, including board and staff

FURTHER QUESTIONS

For more information, a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page has been developed. We encourage you to read this document and to check back periodically.

If you have further questions after reading the FAQs, please contact Health Fund staff at info@mhealthfund.com or by phone by calling (517) 374-0031.