

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

2019 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT

WEBINAR Q & A

OPERATING BUDGET

1. What is the required minimum amount of an organizations operating budget?

We do not set a minimum required organizational operating budget. However, we do require that an organization apply for no more than 20% of their operating budget.

INDIRECT COSTS

1. What is the allowed indirect rate?

In the 2019 Community Health Impact grant round an organization may apply for an indirect rate of up to 20% of their total grant budget.

2. What do you allow for indirect costs?

We consider indirect costs to be things like administrative support, general office expenses, rent, utilities. Essentially, they are costs associated with a project that are not in direct service of the project.

STAFFING AND SALARIES/FRINGE

1. When funding positions, will you fund hours for an already full time employee?

Yes, we will fund partial salary costs of a full-time employee.

2. You stated that salaries are not covered but in your example concept paper you have \$20,000 for salary and fringe benefits. Can you help clarify?

The Health Fund often funds salary as part of a larger grant project. However, the Health Fund does not provide ongoing program operations and staffing. In other words, the Health Fund does not provide operational grants. Should an organization request partial salary for current staff or salary for a new position, the proposal will need to very clearly identify how that position will be sustained once the Health Fund's grant ends.

3. How many hours per week must an employee work to be considered full-time?

It depends on how the applicant organization defines full-time. Some internal policies state 40 hours, while others state 35 or less. The Health Fund will work within the defined parameters of the applicant.

4. Can the requirement of 1 FTE be spread over multiple employees? For example, can the applicant agency have 1.75 FTE spread over 4 part time people?

Yes. The Health Fund requires an organization to have at least 1 FTE employee.

OTHER BUDGET QUESTIONS

1. Is there a particular expenditure ratio that is frowned upon? For example, if a huge part of the budget is for consultants, how might that be perceived?

It depends on the project. We encourage you to submit a concept paper and we will provide targeted feedback on the budget.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT PROGRAM STATS

1. How much money do you have to give out in total?

Our budget is currently set at \$3.5 million for the 2019 Community Health Impact grant round.

2. How many total projects will you fund?

It depends on the number of proposals and the amounts requested. For example, we received 128 proposals for the 2018 Community Health Impact grant cycle, of which 39 were funded.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

1. Can one organization submit more than one concept paper?

Yes, an organization can submit more than one concept paper. However, it is important to keep in mind that the Health Fund will likely only fund one project per organization. The program team can help you decide which project(s) to proceed with through the concept paper process.

2. Can one organization apply for more than one grant opportunity?

Yes, an organization can apply for more than one grant in a given cycle. However, it is unlikely that the Health Fund will approve more than one grant per organization in a single grant cycle. The program team at the Health Fund is happy to provide feedback on multiple ideas through the concept paper submission process to identify which project(s) would be most competitive.

3. Can an investigator be involved in more than one application?

Yes. However, it is important to keep in mind that the Health Fund will likely only fund one project per organization. The program team can help you decide which project(s) to proceed to a full application with through the concept paper process.

4. If you currently have funding from the Health Fund, does this disqualify you from applying for funding for this opportunity?

No, the Health Fund does not have any policies against funding an organization in multiple program areas or grant cycles. However, the Health Fund is unlikely to continue funding a project we have already funded under a previous cycle or different program unless otherwise discussed with your program officer.

5. Could an organization apply for two opportunities (for example, a technology enhancement and a behavioral health services grant)?

Yes, an organization may submit more than one proposal under one or multiple focus areas. However, it is important to keep in mind that the Health Fund will likely only fund one project per organization. The program team can help you decide which project(s) to proceed with through the concept paper process.

6. If our organization runs multiple programs that would fall into the eight different categories can we submit one application, or should we submit separate applications?

It depends on what would make the most sense to that organization and their evaluation plan. It is important to keep in mind that the Health Fund will likely only fund one project per organization. The program team can help you decide which project(s) to proceed with through the concept paper process.

7. Can a proposal be a one-time project responsive to the immediate needs to the community, and thus program sustainability is not needed?

Yes. Be sure to clearly state this and why it is a one-time need in your answer to the sustainability question.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Is it allowable to submit a proposal that may enhance a current program being funded by the Health Fund?

Yes. If you apply to enhance a current project funded by the Health Fund, please clearly identify in your proposal how the program is being enhanced over what has already been funded.

2. We currently have a grant through the Health Fund. It will be complete in the Spring. Can we apply for a similar grant for the following year?

Yes. However, the Health Fund does not provide funding for ongoing programs, so you would need to demonstrate in your proposal how you plan to enhance, expand, or replicate the program.

3. Could you please reiterate the items excluded from consideration concerning large equipment items?

We do not provide funding for large equipment such as vans or the purchase of multiple bikes to give away. However, we would consider equipment purchases (outside of vans) if they are part of a larger health improvement program and essential to carrying out the work.

4. Do you have examples of projects that we can see in order to duplicate in our service area?

You can view all of the projects we have funded on our website under Grantmaking > Past Grants.

5. Can this be used as a bridge grant?

No. The Health Fund does not provide “bridge” or “gap” funding to keep an already established program operating.

6. Given some of the shifting definitions of “clinical trials” from NIH, can you speak to what your definition is?

We do not fund clinical trials such as drug or device trials nor do we fund human subject or animal research. If you have a specific project idea you would like to propose, please send in a concept paper and we can provide targeted feedback on your idea.

7. Do projects need to be new, or could the funds be used to support existing projects that align with the one of the eight areas?

The Health Fund does not provide funding for already established or ongoing programs unless the organization is looking to enhance, expand, or replicate the program.

FOCUS AREAS

1. For health-related transportation, will projects including bicycles be considered in this category? For some people, people with disabilities, using bicycles is their primary mode of transportation.

It depends on the project. However, it is unlikely that the Health Fund will provide a grant for the purchase of bikes to give away.

2. Can a project address more than one focus area?

Yes, projects under the Community Health Impact program often target more than one focus area. You may select as many as apply when you fill out the application.

3. What kinds of projects would qualify as health-related transportation?

One example of a project we funded in this focus area is Wayne State University's *BusME: An e-Health Platform to Reduce Pediatric Health Disparities by Improving Public Transportation Access in Detroit*. This project includes a phone application that low-income patients and their health care providers can use to coordinate healthcare appointments with the schedules of public transportation options and thus help increase the number of patients who are able to keep their appointments. Quality Improvement (QI) approaches will be used to assess the success of BusMe. However, the Health Fund does not provide funding for the purchase of vehicles.

4. Do you consider projects focusing on technology development and pilots?

Yes.

5. What are examples of technology enhancement you usually fund? Would running a computer center for after-school programs including STEM be acceptable?

Technology enhancement proposals need to demonstrate a link to improved health outcomes of the target population. One project example is ReThinking Dementia: Accelerating Change's *mHealth Dementia Project*. They created an interactive free app focused on dementia-related diseases for community organizations, providers, patients, and caregivers dealing with this issue. If you have a specific project idea, we recommend submitting a concept paper to receive targeted feedback.

Project Outcomes

1. Would you fund projects aimed at indirect outcomes, such as improving business involvement or volunteerism on behalf of impacted audiences?

It is unlikely. We are interested in funding projects that lead to improved health outcomes for the target population.

2. Will proposals be considered if they target proven moderating factors to good health (education, delinquency prevention, etc.) versus direct health outcomes (reducing blood pressure, increasing exercise habits, etc.). If they will be considered, will they be weighed equally?

They will be considered, but the Health Fund will prioritize programs that will lead to more direct health outcomes.

3. Does this need to be a new program/project for an organization?

It does not need to be a new program, but it should either be to enhance, expand or replicate an existing program, rather than continuation funding for standard program operations.

COLLABORATION

4. Are projects required to have community partners?

Community partnerships are not required, but they can be helpful in making your proposal stand out, depending on what you are trying to do.

5. Could collaborators be from outside of Michigan?

Yes, if the needs of a program cannot be met through collaboration with individuals or organizations in Michigan. This is left up to the organization to decide.

Target population

- 1. Is there a preference for quantity in terms of impact? For example, would a project designed to improve outcomes for a relatively low number of participants be viewed less favorably than a project aiming for a higher number of participants?**

No. This depends on the project you are proposing. The Health Fund does not prescribe the number of individuals that need to be served for any given intervention.

- 2. What age group do you consider to be children/adolescents and older adults?**

We define children as ages 0-18 and older adults as over the age of 60.

- 3. Has the Health Fund ever made grants to programs that fit into the focus areas but do not specifically focus on children or seniors?**

Yes. However, many of those projects are funded under another invitation-only program area, Special Projects and Emerging Ideas, and cover large portions of the state or are statewide in scope. We will also consider projects that may have a broad reach, either in number of individuals served or geographically.

- 4. Can the project have a statewide focus or is it best focus on one specific community?**

Either is fine. It depends on what makes sense for the organization applying and the project.

- 5. You mentioned disability groups earlier. Can you elaborate on how disability groups are handled?**

We evaluate proposals from disability groups based on the same criteria as other groups. However, we do consider funding projects from disability groups that may target adults with disabilities as well.

Review Process

- 1. Will the evaluation officer weigh in on the review of concept papers and/or applications to ensure the evaluation plan is rigorous and doable?**

The evaluation officer is available to discuss individual evaluation plans should you have questions prior to submitting a concept paper or proposal. The evaluation officer will also be part of the review process and may send back questions or comments regarding your evaluation plan.

- 2. How soon should we expect feedback after submission of the concept paper?**

The program team will do their best to get you timely feedback, usually within about a week. We anticipate receiving many concept papers and will respond to them in the order received, so we recommend submitting your concept paper early in order to get feedback more quickly.

3. If our concept paper or proposal isn't approved, do you do feedback calls?

Yes, the program team is happy to discuss with you why a proposal is declined either by email or phone.

4. If we choose an aging wellness related project, does that fall within Healthy Aging or Community Health Impact? What parameters should we look at to decide?

The Health Fund's proactive grants generally look to target either large geographic regions or large target populations. In these areas, we look for projects that can address either of our cross-cutting goals, integration and workforce development. Additionally, proactive grants require more rigor around evaluation and measurable health outcomes. Our program team can help steer you in the right direction.