

# Responding to the 2023 Community Responsive Grants (CRG) Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

Frank Martinez Nocito, Program Officer

[fmartineznocito@mehaf.org](mailto:fmartineznocito@mehaf.org)

Holly Irish, Grants Manager

[hirish@mehaf.org](mailto:hirish@mehaf.org)

MEHAF

MAINE HEALTH ACCESS FOUNDATION

# Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) MeHAF mission, values & goals
- 3) CRG background, purpose & criteria
- 4) Essential elements of the Letter of Inquiry (LOI)
- 5) Questions & answers
- 6) Accessing & completing the online LOI app.
- 7) Wrap-up

*A recording of today's info session will be available on the MeHAF Community Responsive Grants website.*

The **Community Responsive Grants (CRG)** program offers an opportunity for communities to propose their own projects, that align with one or more of **MeHAF's Four Goal Areas.**



Ensure equitable access to affordable, quality care.



Support systemic changes to address critical health issues in Maine.



Advance efforts to improve the health of specific populations.



Promote shared leadership to achieve equitable health outcomes for everyone in Maine.

- Equitable Access
- Systems Change
- Better Health
- Shared Leadership

# CRG Program

## Purpose

To respond to community needs, to address emerging opportunities, test innovative approaches or new ideas, or to implement programs informed by the experiences of communities – on how to address barriers to achieving health equity.

## Focus

To change policies, practices, and perceptions that create barriers to health care and good health.

# CRG Program Criteria

## 1. Aligns with MeHAF's Four Goal Areas

- Equitable access
- Systems change
- Better health for specific groups
- Shared leadership

2. Responds to a community-defined opportunity with community-defined solution

3. Improves health equity by addressing the 3 P's

4. Describes meaningful community engagement

5. Defines what success will look like for the project

## Terms to know:

- **Community**
- **Community(ies) of focus**
- **Community engagement**
- **Health equity**
- **Planning**
- **Implementation**

# Planning vs. Implementation Grants

Planning Grant	Implementation Grant
<p><b><u>Stage of Development:</u></b> Your work on the issue or need is just beginning and requires exploration.</p>	<p><b><u>Stage of Development:</u></b> A degree of groundwork for your project has already been completed – you understand the problem your project will be trying to solve.</p>
<p><b><u>Relationships:</u></b> A significant part of your work will be establishing relationships with other people or organizations that will help you to accomplish the work you want to do.</p>	<p><b><u>Relationships:</u></b> You have the important relationships already in place that will be essential to the success of the work you are proposing.</p>
<p><b><u>Readiness:</u></b> You are at the stage of needing to gather more information from the community or others that will be important to informing how you move forward.</p>	<p><b><u>Readiness:</u></b> You have a clear and specific plan of action that you and your partners are ready to move forward.</p>
<p><b><u>Expected Results:</u></b> The expected outcome of your work may be described as having learned more about an issue, problem or possible strategy that will support future action.</p>	<p><b><u>Expected Results:</u></b> You have a clear idea of the specific changes that will make a difference for the community your project seeks to serve, if successful.</p>

# Application Requirements

**Step 1:** Applicant & project details

**Step 2:** LOI narrative questions (2)

**Step 3:** Preliminary budget narrative

**Step 4:** Other attachments:

- Fiscal sponsor
- Current Board or Tribal Council lists

**Step 5:** Submit the online application

# Responding to LOI Questions

1) What is your proposed planning process/project? How will it address health equity for the community(ies) of focus?

2) What leadership and decision-making power does the community(ies) of focus have in the proposed work? How have they been involved in defining the need, the solution, and what success will look like?



# Q1: What is your proposed planning process/project? How will it address health equity for the community(ies) of focus?

“Women leaders will continue to develop collaborative relationships with Maine Health System and design a strategic plan and set of training modules to improve access and decrease inequities for poor, undocumented Latine women seeking OBGYN services.”

“Pilot a new consortium to positively influence treatment and healthcare outcomes for women who are actively using drugs in the Greater Portland area. The community of focus is women with experience of chronic homelessness who struggle with opioid or polysubstance use disorders.”

Essential elements of the response

## Actual reviewer responses

“This LOI describes a specific community-defined need and includes a thoughtful, attainable community-defined solution to a significant and concerning systemic problem.”

“The consortium will engage with decision-makers on multiple levels, including municipal government, service providers, and medical providers, to engage on ways to change systems on multiple levels in order to advance more equitable policies and practices. The leadership that community members demonstrate through the program should also serve to shift perceptions.”

“Both the organization and the proposed project are community-driven and community-led.”

**Q2: What leadership and decision-making power does the community(ies) of focus have in the proposed work? How have they been involved in defining the need, the solution, and what success will look like?**

“We are an all-women-, all-BIPOC staff, and our board is primarily BIPOC, immigrant, and people living in poverty. We practice horizontal decision-making, working primarily with undocumented, immigrant, and indigenous communities, though we serve anyone who expresses need.”

“The community of focus has been solely responsible for defining the need for this project, and the concept and vision of the project's success was arrived at through discussions held in residential group meetings at two of [our] three recovery-focused residences.”

Essential elements of the response

## Actual reviewer responses

“Applicant describes a planning process that is centered in community leadership and building relationships and bridges between those community leaders and people within the systems they are seeking to impact at MaineHealth. The community leadership group is clearly intended to drive the project.”

“Clearly, the community of focus will have strong decision-making power in all aspects of the project. Some of the governance structures are yet to be created, but even those will be decided on by community members.”

“Both the organization and the proposed project are community-driven and community-led.”

# Preliminary Budget Narrative

- Text box or upload attachment
- No need to use a budget form
- Estimate expenses and income
- Describe how you plan to use the MeHAF funds

# A Few LOI Tips...

- Review the full required information soon and complete application details
- Past & present projects
- Ensure proposal is well-aligned with five CRG criteria
- Check out the *Practical Guide for Responsive Grant Applicants*
- Be succinct and focused
- If unsure, ask questions

# LOI Review Process & Full Proposal Invitations

**LOIs will be reviewed by MeHAF staff**

**All applicants will be notified about the status of their LOI application on July 18**

# Staff Contact

## Program & Proposal Content Questions:

Frank Martinez Nocito

[fmartineznocito@mehaf.org](mailto:fmartineznocito@mehaf.org)

207-620-8266 x116



# Grants Management Session

1. MeHAF's grants portal
2. Online application
3. Q & A

# Staff Contact

## Technical & Logistical Questions:

Holly Irish

[hirish@mehaf.org](mailto:hirish@mehaf.org)

207-620-8266 ext.115

**Thank You!**