

2025 Community Responsive Grants (CRG) Program Responding to the Request for Proposals (RFP)

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MEHAF

MAINE HEALTH ACCESS FOUNDATION



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 4 Goal Areas

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

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

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

4. Ensures majority of leadership and decision-makers are from the community


5. Defines what success will look like for the project

Terms you'll see:

- **Community(ies)**
- **Health equity**
- **Planning**
- **Implementation**



Planning vs. Implementation Grants

Planning Grant	Implementation Grant
<p><u>Stage of Development:</u> Your work to address an issue or need may be just beginning. It requires a deeper exploration to fully understand the issue/need and more information to flesh out what you will do to respond in greater detail.</p>	<p><u>Stage of Development:</u> Groundwork for your project is well underway and based on collected input from the community and system/organizational contacts. You have an adequate understanding of the issues your project will work to resolve, and have a good idea of how the project can address them.</p>
<p><u>Relationships:</u> A significant part of your work will be establishing and/or developing connections with other people or organizations that could help you to accomplish the system change work you want to do.</p>	<p><u>Relationships:</u> You have communications and relationships with or within the community(ies) and the organization or system. Community members and cooperating organizations are willing to be actively involved with the proposed project.</p>
<p><u>Readiness:</u> You need to gather more information and feedback from the community(ies) or others that will be important to informing how you will move forward.</p>	<p><u>Readiness:</u> You have a clear and specific plan of action and the commitment and trust among members of the community(ies) and cooperating organizations to move forward.</p>
<p><u>Expected Results:</u> You expect to build relationships and knowledge about an issue or problem and explore ideas and support for potential strategies for future action. Examples of final products may include: an action plan, a report sharing your learning and recommendations, a community advisory group, a partnership agreement and/or a roadmap for moving forward, etc.</p>	<p><u>Expected Results:</u> You have a clear idea of the specific changes that will benefit the community(ies) as a result of your work, if it's successful. Result examples include: Quantitative or qualitative data that illustrates the impact of changes made to policies, practices and/or perceptions in existing systems or organizations that the community identified as problematic, etc. </p>

Prompt: In the text box provided in the online application, please demonstrate how your proposed project aligns with each of the five program criteria on page two of the RFP.

“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

Community-defined need and solution

“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, health care providers, and medical professionals, 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

Aligns with three of MeHAF’s four Goal Areas

“Both the organization and the community-led.”

Addresses policies, practices and/or perceptions



....Additional Applicant Responses

“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 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

Community leadership and decision making

“Applicant describes a planning process that is centered in community leadership and building relationships and bridges between those community leaders and people within the community. The applicant is seeking to build a strong community health. The community leadership group is clearly intended to drive the project.”

“Clearly, the community 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 the community.”

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

Community-driven and -led



A Few LOI Tips...

- Review the full required information soon and complete application details
- Fiscal Sponsorship
- Read about past & present projects
- Ensure proposal is well-aligned with five CRG criteria
- Try to be succinct & focused
- Ask questions if unsure



LOI Office Hours

- Optional
- Three opportunities:
 - June 11 – 9:30 am - 11:30 am
 - June 17 – Noon - 2:00 pm
 - June 24 – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Zoom link posted to website
- LOI applications are due: **Tuesday, July 8 by 4:00 pm**



Staff Contacts

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