

# 2025 Health Equity Capacity-Building Program Responding to the Request for Proposals (RFP)

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MEHAF

MAINE HEALTH ACCESS FOUNDATION

# Health Equity Capacity Building Program

## Purpose

- To strengthen community-based organizations in Maine that are working to advance health equity and do so with primary leadership from members of the systematically under-resourced communities they serve.
- To provide a foundation for MeHAF and grantees to collectively work toward building a movement for health equity in Maine
- To forge new transformative, healing relationships, both between funder and grantee and across communities.

# Health Equity Capacity Building Program

## Structure

- Four-year unrestricted grant of \$30,000 per year
- \$5,000 annual budget for capacity-building/technical assistance
- Quarterly convenings
- Grantee-led program design

# Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a tribal government entity based in Maine.
- Fiscally sponsored applications accepted
- For fiscal sponsorship applications, a conversation is required prior to applying

# Health Equity Capacity Building Program Criteria

1. An organization ***led by and serving*** communities that have been systematically under-resourced, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. When considering this criterion, reviewers will think about:
  - a) Whether the ***staff and staff leadership*** are members of the community of focus
  - b) Whether the ***Board and Board leadership*** are members of the community of focus
  - c) How the organization gathers and acts on ***guidance and leadership from the community***, beyond its own Board and staff.

# Health Equity Capacity Building Criteria (continued)

2. Organization *working to advance health equity* for its community. When considering this criterion, reviewers will think about:

- a) Whether the organization has a primary or major *focus on health issues* faced by its community.
- b) Whether the organization's programs or activities have an *important impact on health* care access and/or health status for their community.
- c) Whether the organization's expertise, community trust, leadership and/or other factors make them *able to advance health equity for the community in ways that other organizations cannot*.

# Health Equity Capacity Building Application Process

- Two stage process
- Stage One:
  - LOI
  - Due by Monday, December 9 at 4:00 PM
- Stage Two:
  - Full application (Interview, video, or written)
  - Due by Friday, February 14 at 4:00 PM

# Health Equity Capacity Building Application Process

## Stage 1: LOI

- **Basic Organizational Info, finalist format preference**
- **Upload document (2 pages suggested, 5 page maximum)**
- **Alignment with criteria**



# Health Equity Capacity Building Application Process (continued)

- **Stage 2: Finalists (up to 14 invited)**
  - **Option for interview, video, or written submission**
  - **Continued focus on criteria alignment**
  - **Additional considerations: capacity-building impact, collaborative approach**

# A Few LOI Tips...

- Review the full required information soon and complete application details
- See existing grantee profiles
- Ask if your organization is well-aligned with the two HECB criteria
- Be succinct & focused
- Ask questions if unsure

# LOI Office Hours

- Open Office Hours for LOI period:
  - Tuesday, November 12, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
  - Wednesday, November 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
  - Thursday, November 14, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- A Zoom link will be posted at these times on the HECB website for applicants to log on

# Staff Contacts

## *Program & Proposal Content Questions:*

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