

2024 Community Responsive Grants Projects



EMPOWERED IMMIGRANT
WOMEN UNITE!

Healthy Futures: Regular Check-ups for Mammograms and Pap Tests for Early Detection

This grant will support the empowerment of immigrant women to take control of their health and improve their overall well-being. It will increase awareness and participation in regular health check-ups, leading to better health outcomes for immigrant women, who face significant barriers to healthcare access, such as language difficulties, cultural stigmas regarding medical screenings, and limited knowledge about breast and cervical cancer – increasing their risk for late-stage cancer diagnoses.

Community of Focus: Immigrant women

County of Focus: Androscoggin & Cumberland

Award: Two-Year, \$100,000 Implementation Grant



Wraparound Housing Stabilization

This grant will support expanding housing navigation services to include a focus on wrap-around stabilization services to increase resiliency and reduce returns to homelessness. The project goals are to maintain housing stability for at least 85% of participants in the first year and reduce recidivism rates for current and formerly homeless individuals and families, disproportionately represented by older adults, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other people historically excluded from mainstream society and who struggle to access health resources.

Community of Focus: People experiencing homelessness

County of Focus: Hancock, Waldo & Washington

Award: Two-Year, \$100,000 Implementation Grant

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Community Supporting Community

This grant will support the collaborative discovery of gaps within the Palliative and Hospice Care system, and how HVOOSC can work with health care providers, volunteers, and community partners to fill those gaps. The project will host focus groups with Palliative and Hospice Care leaders and community members (with and without Hospice experience) to identify needs in Palliative and Hospice Care that will serve as the basis for the development of an action plan. Those most affected by barriers to care are often older adults, living on a fixed income, at or under the poverty level, without or lacking adequate health insurance, those living alone or with a partner who has limited ability to care for the individual, and those who are disabled.

Community of Focus: Low income - older adults

County of Focus: Somerset

Award: One-Year, \$30,000 Planning Grant



Cultural Doula Pilot Program

This grant will support the implementation of the Cultural Doula Pilot Program. Cultural doulas are women from African countries, the Middle East, and other regions living in Maine. The project will engender a cohort of women from Maine's African Immigrant communities who are practicing culturally relevant doula support for immigrant birthing women as integral members of care teams and bridge gaps in health care settings that drive racialized disparities in perinatal outcomes. The program primarily serves newly arrived Immigrant women of reproductive age, especially those without partners present.

Community of Focus: Immigrant women

County of Focus: Cumberland & York

Award: Two-Year, \$100,000 Implementation Grant

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Enhancing Pregnancy, Birthing & Postpartum Equity through Increased Access to Doula Care in Maine

This grant will support enhanced perinatal outcomes with a focus on historically excluded pregnant, birthing, and postpartum people by expanding access to doula care. MWLEF and the Maine Doula Coalition aim to increase access to care by convening a provider-centered steering committee and providing statewide education on the benefits of doula care and positive public health outcomes. This initiative aims to serve the perinatal population, particularly those with health disparities and reduced access to care from historic inequities, including those in rural communities, as well as Black, Brown, and Indigenous people.

Community of Focus: Perinatal Population - BIPOC

County of Focus: Statewide

Award: Two-Year, \$100,000 Implementation Grant



MILESTONE
RECOVERY

Substance Use and Homelessness Needs Assessment

This grant will support a community needs assessment and feasibility study to inform the development of new programming to address the intersection of substance use and homelessness. The project will result in a report for stakeholders: nonprofits, government, and general public summarizing community views and relevant data on the need for and potential impact of new programming in Greater Portland for low-income Mainers with substance use disorder (SUD), especially individuals simultaneously experiencing homelessness.

Community of Focus: People experiencing homelessness-SUD

County of Focus: Cumberland

Award: One-Year, \$30,000 Planning Grant

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Wabanaki Rematriation School

This grant will support Niweskok's Wabanaki Rematriation School in engaging Wabanaki families in centering indigenous foodways and traditional ecological knowledge. Our approach is rooted in the transmission of Wabanaki lifeways through languages, history, stories, ecology, and climate adaptation; which forms the core programming. This project enacts systems change to support collective healing for Wabanaki communities broadly (Penobscot, Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, Abenaki), specifically targeting youth and elders in addressing risk factors that affect Indigenous communities.

Community of Focus: Indigenous - Youth-Elders

County of Focus: Kennebec, Knox, Penobscot & Waldo

Award: Two-Year, \$100,000 Implementation Grant

Opiate-Free Island Partnership

Deer Isle-Stonington Opioid Use Disorder Ambassadors

The grant funds will support developing a program to train community volunteers to recognize behaviors associated with substance abuse; build trust with individuals in need and provide them with information on harm reduction, treatment, and recovery opportunities; and connect them with Opioid Free Island Partnership for services on- and off-Island. The project will create a curriculum and library of educational materials, and start training a small initial cohort of "ambassadors."

Community of Focus: People with Opioid Use Disorder

County of Focus: Hancock

Award: One-Year, \$30,000 Planning Grant

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La Red Matriarcal

The grant will support mothers and caregiving leaders of color as they continue to develop collaborative relationships with the MaineHealth system to improve access and decrease inequities for poor, undocumented Afro/Indigenous-Latine women seeking OBGYN services. The project will host four cohorts of birthing people and use these sessions to inform transformative, systemic work within the MaineHealth system. The organization's staff and board - like its community - are composed primarily of BIPOC women-and-femmes, immigrants, and people living in poverty.

Community of Focus: BIPOC women

County of Focus: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Oxford & York

Award: Two-Year, \$100,000 Implementation Grant