

MEHAF

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Discretionary Grant FAQs 2021

Question: Will COVID-19 related projects be accepted for the Discretionary Grant program for the 2020 calendar year?

Answer: While COVID-19 has unquestionably dominated health-related work for much of 2020, this year we recognize that other important needs and work continue. MeHAF is planning to devote a significant share of our overall grantmaking dollars in 2021 to support organizations in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for those populations most severely impacted. We wish to ensure that we are also acknowledging the importance of projects addressing other pressing health needs and providing opportunities for them to secure support.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding my project if does not mention COVID-19 but is indirectly related to it?

Answer: No. While we understand that COVID-19 has brought up areas of interest within organizations, it would be very likely that these types of projects could quickly crowd out other work being done to ensure health access to populations that face disproportionate barriers. Due to limited budget within the Discretionary program, focus will be on projects unrelated to COVID-19.

Question: Will the Discretionary Grant program accept COVID-19 related projects for the next funding year in 2022?

Answer: At this time, no final decisions have been made regarding this question.

Question: What kind of supporting documentation should be submitted with my application?

Answer: If your organization is invited to submit an application, in addition to the narrative application, you will be required to upload a project budget. A form is provided for you to download from the grantee portal. In addition, you will be asked to upload your organization's non-discrimination policy or, as an alternative if that is not possible, affirm that you are in compliance with MeHAF's policy. You have the option to attach one other document relevant to your application/project if you wish.

Question: Should I submit my Letter of Inquiry (LOI) if my project needs to begin in less than six weeks?

Answer: To allow the necessary time for LOI and application review, your project start date must be at least six weeks from the time you begin the application process by submitting your LOI.

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Question: What is the purpose of filling out a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) before the application?

Answer: MeHAF's two-step process is intended to ensure that projects are well aligned with the program criteria prior to inviting applicants to complete a full application. This allows the MeHAF program officer to review a brief description of the project and provide guidance to or resolve questions with the applicant prior to completing an application. The LOI includes two brief questions and the information provided transfers to the application.

Question: How would I know if my organization is in compliance with MeHAF's nondiscrimination policy?

Answer: Refer to MeHAF's nondiscrimination policy below and confirm your organization's policy includes all of the protected classes:

The organization shall be an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, ancestry, genetic information, whistleblower status, military/veteran status, an assertion of a right or claim under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act or any other status protected by law: (i) in the persons served, or in the manner of service; or (ii) in the hiring, assignment, promotion, salary determination, or other conditions of staff employment; or (iii) in the membership of the Board of Trustees.

Question: Must projects engage more than one organization in a collaborative effort?

Answer: No, but where collaboration is an appropriate and necessary project strategy, one factor MeHAF will consider is whether all critical stakeholders have been engaged in the work.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding policy research and analysis?

Answer: Yes. MeHAF will consider funding policy research and analysis if it can be used to inform and shape public policy to expand access and improve health for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding purchases of equipment?

Answer: Yes. MeHAF will consider funding purchases of minor equipment under limited circumstances if it can be used to immediately increase access and availability to needed services for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding curriculum development?

Answer: MeHAF generally will not consider funding curriculum development. If a compelling project requires the adaptation or modification of an existing curriculum, we may consider making an exception.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding organizational strategic planning? Answer: Yes.

MeHAF will consider funding organizational strategic planning, support for developing mergers/strategic alliances, or collaborative planning efforts when the desired goal is

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to improve services for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding staff salary support?

Answer: MeHAF may consider funding staff salary support when costs are directly associated with executing the proposed project. MeHAF will not fund salary support for staff to fulfill their routine, ongoing job duties.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding staff training?

Answer: MeHAF may consider funding staff time for training that is not a standard, required, or normal part of a staff member's job responsibilities. To be eligible for funding, the training would need to provide new knowledge or skills that increase the organization's capacity to expand access or improve health for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding part of a larger project that requires other funding sources?

Answer: Under this program, intended to support discrete projects that can be completed within a 12-month period, MeHAF will only consider funding part of a larger project if there is a discrete, stand-alone piece of the project that can be fully funded by our grant.

Question: Will MeHAF consider making a discretionary grant to support an ongoing program or service while an organization waits to secure a more sustainable funding source?

Answer: No. MeHAF is not able to provide this type of gap funding to support ongoing programs or services.

Question: What constitutes a pilot project?

Answer: Characteristics of a pilot project include: a clear timeframe, a defined group of participants, a proposed method to assess impact, and a commitment to reflecting on lessons learned to inform future work.