



Discretionary Grant FAQs

Question: What are the eligibility requirements of the Discretionary Grant program?

Answer: *Eligible organizations must be:*

- *A 501(c)(3), local, state, or tribal government entity or educational institution*
- *In compliance with [MeHAF's Nondiscrimination Policy](#)*
- *Discretionary Grant funding cannot be used for:*
 - *General operating costs*
 - *Direct care costs*
 - *Public awareness campaigns focused on a specific disease or health condition*
 - *Fundraising efforts*
 - *Capital expenditures*
 - *Academic or graduate research*
 - *Grants or scholarships to individuals*
- *Applicants must apply more than eight weeks before their desired start time to accommodate the full review process*

Question: If I am applying for a project near the end of a Discretionary Grant cycle, can I apply for a project for the next calendar year?

Answer: *No, the start date for the proposed work must be in the same year as the current grant cycle.*

Question: The Discretionary Grants program is meant to fund pilot projects. 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.*

Question: When does the Discretionary Grant program open and close?

Answer: *The Discretionary Grants program opens annually in December and stays up for 11 months until the following November.*

MEHAF

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Question: What does the Discretionary Grant program application process look like?

Answer: *Applying for a Discretionary Grant requires you meet all eligibility requirements (see website) and that you have an account in our [online grants management system](#). Once you have logged in, the application process consists of three short steps:*

- 1. You will first fill out a short Letter of Interest (LOI) that describes your organization and your proposed project*
- 2. If staff reviewers find that your organization meets all eligibility requirements, and that the project aligns with the Discretionary Grant program and MeHAF's overall mission, you will be contacted to set up a time to discuss your project with the Discretionary Grants program lead*
- 3. If the project moves forward after the conversation, applicants will be asked to submit a final application for review before approval.*

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding policy 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. If the request moves through the process, two quotes will be required at the third application step.*

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 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.*