



Bridging Distances, Connecting Care: Improving Acceptability of Public Transportation for Better Health in Aroostook County

Recent research through the Aroostook County Health Improvement Partnership Readiness Assessment, operational data from partner hospitals, and patient surveys conducted at primary care practices associated with Houlton Regional Hospital found over one-third of survey respondents were unable to access needed health care due to lack of transportation. With this in mind, the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging will pilot a project to test systems changes necessary to optimize patient transportation to specialty healthcare services available only in Presque Isle, Maine. The project will be supported by the Aroostook Regional Transportation System and their fleet of vehicles.

Community of Focus: Older adults lacking transportation

County of Focus: Aroostook County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Aging/Older Adults; Rural Health

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



Achieving Healthcare Equity With Older Persons

Cross Cultural Community Services (CCCS) will work to improve access to culturally responsive and supportive healthcare and aging services for all older Mainers. The project will examine the effects of oppressive, discriminatory practices and co-design new practices that work for everyone. CCCS will partner with the Maine Council on Aging to address the health disparities with the aging Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) communities.

Community of Focus: Older Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), older people in the LGBTQ+/BIPOC community

County of Focus: Cumberland County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Aging/Older Adults

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



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Elevating Educators: The Critical Role of Multilingual and Multicultural Social Workers

Of the 6,600 students in Portland Public Schools, 34% are Multilingual Learners and language and cultural gaps often make social work services inaccessible. This grant will support the Foundation for Portland Public Schools to create a pipeline program for multicultural/multilingual education technicians who are also social work students from the University of New England. The program will enable students to complete internships within the Portland Public Schools and their required coursework. By the end of the grant period, this project will have provided supports such as affinity groups, coaching, and extended mentoring, in addition to tuition and release time to social work students who are simultaneously supporting the mental health needs students and families.

Community of Focus: Immigrant students and families in the Portland Public Schools affected by barriers to mental and behavioral health support within the school district

County of Focus: Cumberland County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

Award: Two-Year; \$88,000 Implementation Grant



Reducing Ageism as a Barrier to Effective Healthcare

The grant funds will support informed conversations with healthcare professionals, practice staff, and health system leaders about the impact of ageism on the health of older people and the ways they can reduce and disrupt ageism. The project will also provide technical assistance with implementation of practice level changes. Because ageism intersects with other systems of bias, this work will intentionally highlight how diverse older people can experience worse health outcomes when they experience ageism. By the end of the grant period, leaders of state healthcare associations, systems and practices will have implemented new training protocols and tools to reduce ageism in healthcare.

Community of Focus: All older people

County of Focus: Statewide

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Aging/Older Adults

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



Providing Mobile Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare to Mainers Experiencing Substance Use Disorders in Rural Maine

The grant funds will support information gathering and analyses to determine the perceptions and barriers that limit access to and utilization of sexual health services by Mainers with substance use disorders (SUD). By the end of the grant period, this project will determine the feasibility of a mobile health unit and the operational changes Maine Family Planning must undertake to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services for Mainers with SUD and other challenging life situations.

Community of Focus: Rural Mainers with substance use disorders and other challenging circumstances including homelessness, domestic violence, and re-entry programs from prison

County of Focus: Statewide

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder; Rural Health

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



MAINE IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE SERVICES

Improving the Client Experience and Reducing Barriers to Care by Transforming Data Management Systems

The grant will support professional services to migrate all Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services' client data and care plans across ten programs into a single database, customized to meet the organization's client tracking, referral, and reporting needs. By the end of the grant period, current barriers to care created by disjointed practices for capturing, managing, and sharing client data including myriad databases, paper forms, spreadsheets, etc. will be reduced. This project will free up hundreds of staff hours each month, buoying staff morale and creating a more effective internal data system.

Community of Focus: Clients with complex behavioral health needs; clients who are part of immigrant and refugee communities in need of interpretation services to enable their access to appropriate care

County of Focus: Androscoggin County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

Award: One-Year; \$50,000 Implementation Grant



MotherComfort

The grant funds will support infant care education services for New Mainer mothers, especially those from Middle East and North African countries. Those who are unfamiliar with American post-natal practices can benefit from resources and the most up-to-date information about infant safety, nutrition, care, and development. By the end of the grant a trained group of immigrant and refugee women will be able to support and inform new mothers and connect them to resources.

Community of Focus: New Mainer first time mothers, especially ages 17-26, that lack the comforting presence of female relatives

County of Focus: Androscoggin; Cumberland; Kennebec; and York Counties

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Maternal and Infant Health

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



Strengthening Partnerships: Exploring the Potential of a Street Medicine Residency to Improve Health Outcomes for Unhoused People in the Bangor Area

Grant funds will support establishment and development of relationships with community partners and the community of focus to gather input related to both the need and feasibility of creating a Street Medicine program within the Family Medicine Residency Program. The program goal is to augment and complement current efforts to provide wholistic, integrated, and coordinated community-based health care to unhoused individuals by reducing barriers and providing patient care in the community.

Community of Focus: Individuals of all ages and demographics in the EMMC service area, primarily Bangor, who are unhoused and at risk of being unhoused

County of Focus: Penobscot County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Aging & Older Adults; Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder; Maternal and Infant Health

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



An Informed Response to Portland's Overdose Crisis

The grant funds will support work to decrease overdoses in Greater Portland by bringing people with lived experience of homelessness and substance use disorder to the table to help shape solutions. By the end of the grant period, this project will have gathered data from the community of focus to develop a formal set of recommendations to the Cumberland County Overdose Prevention Alliance to achieve effective, realistic solutions to the overdose crisis.

Community of Focus: People who have experienced homelessness while also facing substance use disorder; People experiencing complex medical conditions; BIPOC populations who are disproportionately affected by homelessness and bias in the healthcare system

County of Focus: Cumberland County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder

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



Island Communities Health Resource Access Assessment and Gap Response Planning II

The grant supports conducting community engagement and shared planning on two of Maine's unbridged islands. The engagement with communities will include a multi-phase assessment of health care resources and gaps; analysis and development of conceptual solutions; creation of a short list of potential solutions to choose from; and in-depth dialogues with residents of the two island communities to inform their health care resource decision-making.

Community of Focus: Residents on Swans Island and Isle au Haut

County of Focus: Hancock County

MeHAF Strategic Priority: Rural Health

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