Systems Improvement and Innovation
Responsive Grants Program

Request for Proposals InfoSession

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Holly Irish, Grants Associate
hirish@mehaf.org
Agenda

- Introductions: name, organization, location
- MeHAF and Program Background
- Program Overview & Purpose
- Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Questions
- Questions and Answers
- Accessing & Completing the LOI
- Questions and Answers
MeHAF Background

Vision: We envision a Maine where all people and communities are healthy and well.

Mission: To promote access to quality health care, especially for those who are uninsured and underserved, and improve the health of everyone in Maine.
## MeHAF’s Strategic Framework

### MEHAF GOALS AND STRATEGIES: 2018 – 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensure equitable access to affordable, quality care.</th>
<th>Insurance Coverage &amp; Free Care</th>
<th>Workforce</th>
<th>Rural Health</th>
<th>Costs</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Support systemic changes to address critical health issues in Maine.</td>
<td>Help to build a robust, trauma-informed, integrated behavioral health care system in Maine, especially treatment and recovery for substance use disorders.</td>
<td>Strengthen and expand the health, mental health, and dental workforces, with a focus on recruiting from Maine communities.</td>
<td>Support rural health care transformation into new systems that coordinate and maintain essential services.</td>
<td>Promote learning and problem solving regarding economically sustainable health care, particularly concerning rising costs.</td>
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<td>Advance efforts to improve the health of specific populations.</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Older Adults</td>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>Social Determinants</td>
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<td>Support efforts to improve the health of Maine children, focusing on early childhood and infant and maternal mortality.</td>
<td>Improve the health of Maine’s older adults, focusing on health care linked to mental health care, as well as social services and community supports.</td>
<td>Support groups that experience health inequities to build capacity to improve health in their communities.</td>
<td>Participate in cross-sector efforts to address social determinants of health (such as transportation, security, and housing).</td>
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<td>Promote shared leadership to achieve equitable health outcomes for everyone in Maine.</td>
<td>Public Awareness &amp; Commitment</td>
<td>MeHAF’s Leadership</td>
<td>State &amp; Community Leadership</td>
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<td>Build public commitment to achieving equitable health outcomes.</td>
<td>Build MeHAF’s leadership skills and capacity to live out our commitment to equity.</td>
<td>Support efforts to foster equity-minded leadership, to advance access to health care and improve the health of everyone in Maine.</td>
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Systems Improvement and Innovation Responsive Grants (SIIRG) Program

Background & Intent

• Open up additional funding opportunities outside specific initiatives.

• Builds on our mission and commitment to advance health equity.

• Recognizes the importance of action at system and organizational levels that is shaped by voices and experiences of communities they serve.
• **Purpose:** To provide regular opportunities for organizations working to improve or innovate to make their services more responsive to the health needs of their communities.

• **SIIRG focus:** Changing systems, services, policies, practices, and perceptions that create barriers to access and care.
### SIIRG Program Goals and Strategies

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<td><strong>Oral Health</strong></td>
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<td>Ensure ongoing access to high quality dental care and improve the oral health status of individuals with low incomes.</td>
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For the Purposes of the SIIRG Program, a “System” is defined as:

The interconnected entities and structures—people, policies, services, organizations—individuals interact with when seeking support for their health needs. This may include providers of care (large or small) and other health-related services.

• The parts of any system are interdependent and interconnected in such a way that the actions and decisions of one part affect the other parts of the system.

• Ideally, systems share goals or objectives and work in alignment to produce desired results.
Available Funds and Timeline

• MeHAF will award one-year planning grants of $10,000 to $30,000 or project grants for up to two years at $25,000 to $50,000 per year.

• Two-step application process:
  - LOIs due Thursday, March 5th
  - Invitation for full proposals: Thursday, March 26th
  - Full proposals due Tuesday, April 28th
  - Decisions announced July 7th
  - Grant Period: August 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021
Eligible Proposals/Applicants

• Maine based 501(c)(3) non-profit (or equivalent) or have a fiscal sponsor.
• Current MeHAF grantees in other programs are eligible.
• Applicants may submit only one planning or project proposal.
• Separate units of large organizations may submit individual proposals.
I’m confused, what’s a separate unit?

Health System
  - Research Institute
  - Hospital
  - Home Health

System Improvement and Innovation Responsive Grants
Question 1: What is the health service improvement or innovation for which you seek funding?

- A clear plan and focus
- Aligns with one or more strategic area
- There is logic and purpose to addressing the chosen areas if more than one is selected
## Question 1: Health Service Improvement/Innovation
(possible points: Planning – 35; Project – 30)

<table>
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<th>Top of Range</th>
<th>Mid-Range</th>
<th>Bottom of Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>• The applicant has a <strong>clear</strong> plan and <strong>focus</strong> for the proposal.</td>
<td>• The applicant has multiple ideas that <strong>may need to be clarified or narrowed</strong> down to a clear focus for work.</td>
<td>• The applicant <strong>does not have a clear plan or focus</strong> for the proposal.</td>
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<td>• The proposal’s focus <strong>clearly aligns</strong> with one or more of MeHAF’s strategic priority areas.</td>
<td>• The proposal’s focus <strong>aligns</strong> with one or more of MeHAF’s strategic priority areas.</td>
<td>• The proposal’s focus <strong>does not clearly align</strong> with MeHAF’s strategic priority areas.</td>
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<td>• If focusing on more than one area, there is <strong>logic and purpose to addressing multiple areas</strong>.</td>
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LOI Questions (cont’d)

Question 2: How will your proposed activities address systemic barriers to health equity?

• Understand the nature of systemic barriers and how they cause differences in access and care
• Address systemic barriers related to the proposal’s issue of focus
• Grounded in evidence-based practice or practice-based evidence
## Scoring Guidelines

**Question 2: Address barriers to health equity**  
(possible points: Planning – 35; Project – 30)

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| • The applicant **understands** the nature of systemic barriers and how they cause differences in access and care.  
• The proposal **addresses systemic barriers** related to the proposal’s focus, and is grounded in evidence-based practice or practice-based evidence on how to address systemic barriers… | • The applicant shows **some understanding** of the nature of systemic barriers and how they cause differences in access and care, but there may be **some gaps** in understanding.  
• It is **not clear how** the proposed work will address the systemic barriers related to the proposal’s focus, or that it is grounded in… | • The applicant’s idea **does not show** an understanding of the nature of systemic barriers and how they cause differences in access and care.  
• The proposed work **does not align** with the identified barriers or is **not grounded** in… |

*Credit: Maine Health Access Foundation*
Question 3: What role have groups/individuals most impacted by the issue of focus played in the design of this planning process or project?

• Individuals or groups most affected by the issue(s) have a meaningful role in the design
## Scoring Guidelines

**Question 3: Role of groups/individuals most impacted**  
(possible points– 30)

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<td>• The applicant <strong>has involved</strong> individuals and groups most affected by the issue in designing the proposed planning process or project, and has <strong>included</strong> them <strong>in the decision-making</strong> about the approach.</td>
<td>• The applicant <strong>may have involved</strong> individuals and groups most impacted by the issue of focus, but may not have included enough of them, or may have <strong>limited</strong> involvement <strong>to an advisory or input role</strong>.</td>
<td>• The applicant <strong>does not indicate</strong> that groups or individuals most impacted by the issue of focus were involved in designing the proposed planning process or project.</td>
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LOI Questions (cont’d)

Question 4 for Project Grants only: How will the issue(s) or service(s) that are the focus of this project be different at the end of the grant period as compared to the beginning?

• Desired future state is envisioned and compared to an informed assessment of the current state.

• Path to change is feasible
## Scoring Guidelines

### Question 4: How issues/services will be different

(possible points – 10)

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| • The applicant has a **clear vision** of the desired future state as compared to the current state.  
• Both the current and future states are **logical** and there is a **feasible** pathway for change.  | • The applicant **does not fully envision** either the desired future state, the pathway for change, or both.  
• The applicant **may understand** the relationship between the current state and the future, **but** it is **not clear how** the project idea will lead to that change. | • The applicant **does not have clarity** about the desired future state as compared to the current state, or the pathway for change is **unclear or illogical**. |
A Few Tips…

- Read the scoring guidelines carefully prior to preparing your application.
- Be direct and concise.
- Read the scoring guidelines and compare with your responses again prior to submitting your application.
Attachments

• Preliminary Budget
  – Template on website, its use is not required.

• Other:
  – Current Board List/Tribal Council List (if this is not listed on your organization’s website.)
  – For applicant’s applying with a Fiscal Sponsor, provide an MOU that outlines the relationship.
How are you estimating the costs?

Present this information the way it makes the most sense to you.

This is only a suggestion.
Use of Funds

• Planning or Project Grants

• MeHAF funding may not be used for:
  o General operating support or “gap” funding;
  o Direct care costs;
  o Public awareness campaigns focused on a specific disease or health condition;
  o Fundraising efforts;
  o Capital expenditures;
  o Academic or graduate research; or
  o Grants or scholarships to individuals.
Expectations of Grantees

• Interim check-in with Program Officer and financial report.

• Final narrative and financial report due at conclusion of grant period.

• One or two learning opportunities, one being an annual equity training session attended by at least one person from lead organization and key partner organizations.
Proposal Review and Funding Decisions

• LOIs to be reviewed by MeHAF staff.

• Full proposals to be reviewed by MeHAF staff and community representatives.

• Approval by Foundation Grants Committee
Reminder of Dates and Deadlines

• LOI FAQs Posted: February 12th

• **LOIs Due:** March 5th at 4:00 p.m. (online submission only)

• Applicants Contacted and Full Proposals Invited: March 26th

• Applicants not selected to submit a full proposal may request a debrief call with the Senior Program Officer: April
Other Dates and Deadlines

- Full Proposal Information Session: April 6th
- Full Proposal FAQs posted: April 8th
- Full Proposals Due: April 28th
- Grants Announced: July 7th
- Grant Period: August 2020 – July 2021
Your Turn

Questions and Answers

FAQs will be posted February 12th
Grants Management Session Agenda

- MeHAF’s Grants Portal
- Online application
- Question and answer period
Your Turn
Questions and Answers

Technical or Logistical Questions:
Holly Irish, hirish@mehaf.org,
620-8266, ext.115

Program and Proposal Content Questions:
Charles Dwyer, cdwyer@mehaf.org
620-8266, ext. 103
Thank You.