HEALTH EQUITY FUND
SUPPORTING NEW AND ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY PRACTICES, NETWORKS & STRUCTURES THAT FOSTER ECONOMIC MOBILITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Release Date: June 13, 2022

Amount Available: Grants up to $400,000 are available over two years.

To Apply: Qualified applicants are invited to submit an application package no later than **4 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2022.** All applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in an FAQ webinar for prospective applicants to be held on June 21, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. To register, please see details below.

Questions? Please email ispake@thecommunityfoundation.org with any questions you may have. No phone calls, please.

Background and Objective

The Greater Washington Community Foundation ignites the power of philanthropy, leads for community impact, and responds to critical community needs. As the region's largest local funder, we have invested more than $1.4 billion since 1973 to build equitable, just and thriving communities where everyone prospers. Our new strategic vision is to close our region's racial wealth gap so that people of all races, places, and identities reach their full potential.

The Health Equity Fund is administered by the Greater Washington Community Foundation. The grantmaking through the Health Equity Fund is happening within the context of The Community Foundation's new strategic plan grounded in the values of Racial Equity and Inclusion with a focus on closing the racial wealth gap in the region's most underinvested neighborhoods. We believe that changing the prospects for how Black and Brown people in our community generate, sustain, and share wealth will ultimately improve the quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and raises a family in this region. We invite applicants to speak boldly and honestly about their efforts to address systems and policies that contribute to disproportionate negative quality of life outcomes for BIPOC people and communities. To this end, we are also actively looking for opportunities to support BIPOC-led organizations and the places where they do their work.

Opportunity Statement

Recognizing the determinants of health are twenty percent (20%) clinical care and eighty percent (80%) non-clinical, the economic, social and health systems that influence our well-being are failing all of us. These systems often create and reinforce persistent health inequities in our city. Black, Latinx and other people of color are suffering the brunt of these failures and inequities.

Using the **social** and **structural determinants of health** as the guiding frameworks, the Health Equity Committee will deploy the full resources of the Health Equity Fund to invest in innovative and system-changing projects that disrupt the 'business as usual' posture of social change that impacts the well-being of people in our city.

While the Health Equity Committee is committed to addressing the broad spectrum of **social and structural determinants of health**, we will be keenly focused on five catalytic opportunities for change over the next five (5) years:

1. **Supporting new and established community practices and structures that foster economic mobility.**
2. **Advancing policy advocacy and systems change initiatives that address the social and structural determinants of health.**
3. **Seeding disruptive and innovative projects that model and trend toward health equity.**
4. **Establishing and sustaining community and anchor partnerships with hospitals and health systems.**
5. **Resourcing mental health and trauma-informed care.**

Our Vision

Our vision is to support and advance a sustainable network of people, organizations, and projects leading a culture of disruption and innovation that will ensure equitable health outcomes for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, people of color and other marginalized populations in Washington, DC.

Achieving this vision also puts our city on a trajectory to improve and achieve optimal health outcomes for all people in Washington, DC.

Supporting New and Established Community Practices, Networks & Structures that Foster Economic Mobility

The Health Equity Fund's first grant round will invest in community practices and infrastructures that improve the prospects for economic mobility for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, people of color and other marginalized populations and the communities where they live in the District of Columbia. While the committee expects to field applications that align with traditional approaches for improving health outcomes and advancing economic mobility, we are especially interested in projects that break from the status quo and embody the spirit of innovation, creativity, and collective work that Black, Latinx, Indigenous, people of color and other marginalized populations continue to model in the context of their families and neighborhoods.

With this grant round the Health Equity Committee also seeks to learn from, support, and grow the field of leaders, practitioners, and organizations working to improve economic mobility. We would like to grow the body of local evidence that links economic progress to improved health outcomes for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, people of color and other marginalized populations who live in the District of Columbia. This could put our city on a trajectory to ensure equitable health outcomes for all people in Washington, DC.

Funding Objectives

This specific opportunity for change will provide two-year general operating grants to nonprofits or fiscally sponsored entities that are doing one or more of the following:

- Implementing economic mobility models that increase income and build wealth
- Implementing innovative enterprise development and ownership models

Organizations with operating budgets of $750,000 and below are eligible for grants ranging from $50,000-$100,000 per year and organizations with operating budgets above $750,000 are eligible for grants ranging from $150,000 to $200,000 per year.

Key Definitions

Here are a few critical definitions that will guide the work of the Health Equity Committee.

Health Equity means social justice in health (i.e., no one is denied the possibility to be healthy for belonging to a group that has historically been economically/socially disadvantaged). Health equity is a process of assurance[1] of the conditions for optimal health for all people. It requires at least three things: 1) valuing all individuals and populations equally; 2) recognizing and rectifying historical injustices; and 3) providing resources to need.

Social Determinants of Health are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. These include: Economic Stability; Education Access and Quality; Health Care Access and Quality; Food Access and Quality; Neighborhood and Built Environment; and Social and Community Context.

Structural Determinants of Health encompass policy, law, governance, and culture and refers to race, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, class, sexual orientation, and other domains. These structural determinants are created by the distribution of money, power, and resources throughout communities. They are the 'root causes' of health inequities because they share the quality of the Social Determinants of Health experienced by people in their neighborhoods and communities.

How to Submit a Proposal

To be considered for funding, proposals must meet all the *Common Eligibility Requirements*. Once you have reviewed the eligibility requirements, please follow the guidelines and format on the following pages to submit your request. The narrative as well as the required attachments must be submitted as PDF documents via The Community Foundation's online application system.

Please review the instructions in advance of the deadline in order to be familiar with The Community Foundation's online application system. Incomplete, emailed, hard copy, and fax applications **will NOT** be accepted. Proposals that do not include all the elements as stated will not be considered for funding. Proposals that are incomplete or illegible will not be reviewed or considered for funding. **The deadline for submission is July 25, 2022 at 4pm.**

Technical Assistance

A pre-proposal **webinar** information session will be held to review the RFP Guidelines and online application system on **June 21, 2022 at 10:30am**. Pre-registration is required. To register for the meeting, please [click here](#).
 No phone calls, please.

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[1] Describes health equity as a process of assurance instead of outcome: This portion of the definition says that health equity is a process instead of an end goal, outcome, or a future state of affairs. Therefore, if we eliminate health disparities (or health inequities), we are still not finished as a field with the process of health equity, because there is a need for ongoing assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people.

Application Timeline

All requests will be reviewed by The Community Foundation's staff and the Grants Review Committee representatives. Timeline includes:

- ✓ Application Opens: **June 13, 2022**
- ✓ Applicant Webinar: **June 21, 2022**
- ✓ Application Deadline: **Monday, July 25 at 4pm**
- ✓ Awards announced: **Mid-September 2022**

Common Eligibility Requirements

Grants will be awarded to select organizations that meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- ✓ The applicant (defined as the agency that will receive the grant agreement and funds, if awarded) must have current status as a 501(c)(3) public charity designation. Organizations that have not yet received a 501(c)(3) designation must have a fiscal sponsor to serve as the applicant who meets all eligibility requirements at the time of submission.
- ✓ The organization must not be listed on the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals or the Southern Poverty Law Center Hate Group lists.
- ✓ Organizations must be both based in and primarily implementing in the District of Columbia.
- ✓ Organizations working towards health equity in areas of the District that exhibit the greatest health disparities, or primarily serving communities experiencing the greatest inequities.
- ✓ Organizations that address social, economic, contextual issues that influence health disparities and contribute to health equity specifically, the social and structural determinants of health (see key definitions).
- ✓ If previous funding has been received from The Community Foundation, the applicant must be current in reporting to The Community Foundation as specified in the grant agreement.

Additional Review Criteria

The Community Foundation is looking to support:

- ✓ Organizations with a demonstrated or stated goals of employing economic mobility or wealth building strategies to improve the health and well-being of its participants;
- ✓ Organizations that approach their work through a racial equity lens;
- ✓ Organizations whose staff and board leadership reflects the communities they serve;
- ✓ Organizations with a demonstrated track record of community engagement through the assistance of community advisory boards, community listening sessions, community representation on the board of directors or other measures defined by the organization.
- ✓ Organizations with a demonstrated capacity to track and report on activities and outcomes with an established body of evidence about the effectiveness of their programs or a willingness to receive technical assistance to develop the capacity to track and report on activities.
- ✓ Organizations willing to engage with the Health Equity Fund as key informants and partners for future strategy. The grant agreement will ask recipients to agree to be responsive to requests for information, data, and engagement (e.g., surveys and interviews, etc.,) and to participate in no more than four convenings over the course of the two-year grant.

Please note: Hospitals, health systems, and their supporting organizations (e.g., fundraising entities, subsidiaries, or affiliated nonprofit corporations) are NOT eligible for this funding opportunity.

Grants Available

The Community Foundation is offering two-year general operating grants to organizations that are implementing one or more of the funding objectives advancing economic mobility as outlined above.

Proposal Template

Answers to all fields below must be provided in the online application form.

I.   ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND (Completed Online – No attachment required)
1.   Organization name, address, and website
2.   Tax exempt/EIN Number
3.   Date organization was established
4.   Fiscal year (MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY)
5.   Total organizational budget (current year)
6.   Organization's mission
7.   Name of President or Executive Director and email/phone
8.   Please check all of the Geographic area(s) the organization currently serves below:
    District of Columbia;   Montgomery County, Maryland
    Prince George's County, Maryland;   Northern Virginia

FISCAL SPONSOR
9.   Fiscal Sponsor Organization name, address, Director, and contact email/phone number

REQUEST DETAILS
10.   Name of primary contact for this proposal, if other than Executive Director and email/phone
11.   Request Date
12.   Total Amount Requested
13.   Purpose of Request: Briefly describe how you will use the funds to advance economic mobility for BIPOC residents in the District of Columbia. [Limit: 75 words]

II.   NARRATIVE (Maximum of 10 pages Double-Spaced, 11 point or higher font, 1" Margins— submitted as a pdf attachment)

Organizational Information

The background section should introduce the review committee to the applicant. Please:

1.   Describe your organization's history, mission and sub-population served.
2.   Describe how your organization has been working towards Health Equity in the District of Columbia.
     - What specific community needs or issues does the organization address?
3.   Describe how your organization has worked towards addressing the social determinants of health as defined above.
     - What strategies has the organization utilized to tackle the social determinants?
     - What proven best practice(s) have been implemented?
     - Identify the results, impact and/or lessons learned.
4.   Describe the organization's most important accomplishment(s) and challenges of the past year.
     - "ORGANIZATION has accomplished OUTCOME through PROGRAM/STRATEGY."
     - "ORGANIZATION was faced with CHALLENGE because of CIRCUMSTANCES. ORGANIZATION addressed this challenge through STRATEGY."
5.   Describe the leadership/governance of the organization and their respective roles*. Note: You are required to submit as an attachment the data showing the racial composition of the organization's management staff, other staff and Board.*
     - In your narrative, please make sure you include what your plans are to increase the number of people of color in leadership positions (staff and board) if they are not majority people of color.

Economic Mobility

This section should help the review committee understand how your organization is employing economic mobility or wealth building strategies to improve achieve Health Equity for communities experiencing the greatest inequities.   Please:

1. Describe the economic mobility work of your organization.
    a. What economic mobility models is the organization implementing that increase income or build wealth?
        OR
    b. What innovative enterprise development and ownership models is the organization implementing?
2. Describe how the economic mobility work of your organization is helping to achieve health equity for communities experiencing the greatest inequities.
    a. Provide at least one sentence that specifically cites reports or data points regarding how the organization's economic mobility work can lead to health equity.
    b. Make the case that your organization has the capacity to do this work.
    c. What evidence can you provide that the organization has a demonstrated track record to accomplish its work?
    d. Does your organization target specific Wards or communities in the District of Columbia? If so, please provide the rationale.

Anticipated Outcomes

> *Note: An outcome is essentially a target, something an organization commits to achieving through its efforts and/or interventions. An outcome is not about activity, as in how many we served, but rather is about the changes in an existing situation that were brought about because of the activity of an organization. (Robert M. Penna, Ph.D., The Nonprofit Outcomes Toolbox)*

1. Describe a minimum of three outcomes (defined as concrete changes) for the grant period. Please make sure your outcomes speak to how your organization's economic mobility strategies will help achieve Health Equity for communities experiencing the greatest inequities and that the outcomes you describe are specific, measurable, and achievable within the timeframe of the grant.
    -   "This request will enable ORGANIZATION to implement STRATEGY to accomplish OUTCOMES."
    -   "PROGRAM NAME will help PERCENT of participants to achieve OUTCOME A, PERCENT to achieve OUTCOME B, and PERCENT to achieve OUTCOME C."

2. What data and methods does your organization use to track the organization's impact?
    -   "ORGANIZATION uses METHOD to collect DATA." (Describe data collected and the connection to outcomes)

Community Engagement

This section should help the review committee understand your organization's values, experience, and strategies of engaging the community.   Please:

1. Describe how your organization works to engage the community, such as, community advisory boards, community listening sessions, community representation on the board of directors or other measures defined by the organization.
    a. What is your organization's philosophy about the practice of community engagement?
    b. How are those community members identified and supported?
    c. How are community members compensated for their time?
    d. Provide a summary of the racial/ethnic, gender and geography composition of the community the organization is engaging.

2. Describe how the organization incorporates the community's input into its decision making.

III. ATTACHMENTS

*Each attachment must be uploaded separately as a PDF document into the online application system. Attachments are **required** for your application to be considered complete.*

Organizational Information

1. Please provide data showing the racial/ethnic composition and gender demographic info for all staff members.
2. List of board members with terms, occupations, and related racial/ethnic and gender demographic information.
3. Organizations utilizing a fiscal sponsor must provide a separate document signed by the executive director or board chair of the fiscal sponsor confirming the sponsor accepts financial, programmatic and legal liability for the charitable work being done by the organization and includes the required fee for service (if applicable).

Organization Financial Information

Required for all organizations applying including organizations utilizing a fiscal sponsor.

1. Current fiscal year's organizational budget (include all revenue, expenses, actuals, and variance for the reporting period specified.) If needed, please [Click Here](#) to access a template.
   - If your entity has a fiscal sponsor, applicant should only provide a budget for the entity **not the fiscal sponsor.**
2. List of major funders or contributors for current fiscal year including amount of support requested vs. received.
   - If your entity has a fiscal sponsor, applicant should provide list of the entity's list of funders or contributors **not the fiscal sponsor.**
3. If your organizational budget is **$750,000 or greater** you are required to submit the most recent audited financial statements (including auditor's management letter). For organizations with an operating budget **less than $750,000** you can submit pages 1-6 of your most recent IRS Form-990, Form 990-EZ or 990-N. (*PLEASE PROVIDE A NON-PASSWORD COPY OF THE AUDIT or 990 as we will not be able to open a password-protected or secured document.)*
   - If your entity has a fiscal sponsor, please provide the audit or 990 of the fiscal sponsor.

Grant Request Budget Narrative

Required for all organizations applying including organizations utilizing a fiscal sponsor.

1. A detailed budget narrative that summarizes how you will you use the grant request for the grant period.

How to Use The Community Foundation's Online Grant Application System

System Requirements

Applicants must have a functioning Internet connection and one of the following browsers, with cookies enabled: Google Chrome or Firefox v3 or higher.
PLEASE NOTE Safari, Microsoft Edge, and Internet Explorer are not compatible.

1. To begin your application, cut and paste the link below into your web browser:
   https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5491?SA=SNA&FID=35267

2. If you are new to this grantmaking system, you will be prompted to create an account login with an email and a password. You will need to verify your email in order to continue.

3. Once you have created your account and verified your email, you can access the application form by re-entering the link listed above into your browser.

4. Enter data. As needed, update any organizational information in the fields provided.

5. Upload proposal attachments. The online application system allows you to upload the required proposal attachments.
   a. Each required attachment must be individually uploaded into the system. Only one document may be uploaded for each required attachment.
   b. Documents will only be accepted in PDF file format.
   c. Please do not use special characters (!, @, #, $, etc.) in the names of these attachments.

6. Save and finish later. At the bottom of any page of the application, you can click Save & Finish Later to save the data entered thus far and return later to complete the application prior to the submission deadline. To access your account and finish your partially completed application click here:
   https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5491?SA=AM

7. Submit your application. Carefully review your application for completeness. Click the submit button to send your application to The Community Foundation. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application. I**f you do not receive a confirmation, please check your spam filter/folder.**

Proposals that do not include all required elements will not be considered for funding. Proposals that are incomplete will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

If you have any technical questions, contact Carmen Rosa at crosa@thecommunityfoundation.org or Isabel Spake ispake@thecommunityfoundation.org

Appendix A: PDF Conversion Programs

Please note that all application attachments must be submitted as PDF documents.

When naming your file, please do not use special characters (such as/,*,%, etc.) or spaces in the file names. Such files are not recognizable as PDFs to some systems.

If you must use a document scanner to create a PDF, please ensure that the resulting file is easy-to-read.

Please remove any password protections or coding prior to uploading your documents.

The list below contains some of the PDF generators available, many of which are free or very inexpensive. The Community Foundation **does not** endorse any particular software.

- Adobe
    http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobatstd/main.html

- Bullzip PDF Printer
    http://www.bullzip.com/products/pdf/download.php

- FreePDF
    http://freepdfxp.de/index_en.html

- novaPDF
    http://www.novapdf.com

- PDF24 Creator
    https://en.pdf24.org

- PDFcreator
    http://www.pdfforge.org/pdfcreator

*Proposals that do not include all the elements as stated will not be considered for funding.

*Illegible or incomplete applications will not be considered.