



GREATER WASHINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE & DISRUPTIVE MODELS THAT INCREASE THE ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND/OR THE COMMUNITY WEALTH OF DC'S MOST MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS & COMMUNITIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AS OF 10.26.23

Our goal is for the best proposals to receive funding. To support this outcome, the Health Equity Fund team is available for a 30-minute consultation to discuss your proposed demonstration project before you submit your Letter of Intent (LOI).

1. Only one meeting will be available for collaborative partners per application. Multiple consultations for an application will not be scheduled.
 - a. Please note that the Health Equity Fund team will not help the applicant in the creation of their project, instead we will provide guidance based on what is in the LOI criteria.
2. If an application is not selected to advance, requested feedback will be sent via email. A follow-up consultation will not be available.

If there is a question you have that is not addressed in the FAQ or [recorded webinar](#), please email Isabel at ispake@thecommunityfoundation.org. No phone calls please.

Eligibility Questions:

1. **Please describe the geographic eligibility requirements.**

Each partner organization must be both based in and primarily implementing in the district. Funding may not be used for activities outside of DC. Partners must have both a deep understanding of the landscape and conditions in the District of Columbia. To evaluate if an organization is eligible for funding, please consider the following:

- The applicant must have at least one existing DC based operating site or office;
- The applicant must have existing DC based staff;
- The applicant must have a DC focused board of directors or advisory council;
and
- The applicant must have an existing budget for DC specific work.

If any of the partner applicants is a national organization, the local chapter or affiliate must apply and meet the criteria listed above.

2. **If an application is rejected, can the partner applicants submit a new, revised LOI?**
No. However, each organization can apply with a new partner(s).



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3. **Will newly established nonprofits be considered if they have been doing the work for years.**

Yes, if they meet the eligibility requirements.

4. **Can the partner organization be a university?**

Yes, if they meet the eligibility requirements.

5. **Can current Health Equity Fund grantees apply?**

Yes. However, there are two restrictions:

- Organizations who have previously received a Health Equity Fund grant cannot submit an LOI in the same year an initial award was made.
- If previous funding has been received from The Community Foundation, each partner organization must be current in reporting to The Community Foundation as specified in the grant agreement.

6. **Can one of the two partner organizations be based out of a non-DC region (e.g., NYC) if the other is based out of DC and the overall implementation is in the region?**

Please refer to question #1.

7. **Can there be more than two partner organizations involved?**

Yes. The application portal allows you to add up to three organizations. If the number of partners is more than three, please reach out to Isabel at ispake@thecommunityfoundation.org.

8. **Can a partner be on more than one application?**

Yes, but if funded they will only be funded for that one proposal in any one calendar year.

9. **If a nonprofit organization has a DC based Advisory Board but a National Board of Directors, would they be eligible as a partner applicant?**

Please refer to question #1.

10. **Are single independent clinics eligible for this opportunity?**

Hospitals, health systems, and their supporting organizations (e.g., fundraising entities, subsidiaries, or affiliated nonprofit corporations) are NOT eligible for this funding opportunity. If your clinic is not affiliated with a hospital, health system or a supporting organization, then your organization is eligible for funding if they meet all other criteria.



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11. Are hospitals/health centers eligible to be a partner or contracted service if there are two or more other eligible partners leading the work?

As indicated in question #10, hospitals/health centers are not eligible for this funding opportunity. However, they can appear in the budget as contracted services.

12. The leadership/board of my organization is not racially/ethnically diverse- will this make the organization ineligible to apply with a partner for these funds?

The organization is eligible to apply with a partner organization. However, priority will be given to organizations whose staff and board leadership reflect the communities served by the organizations and have a demonstrated track record of community engagement.

Timeline

13. Can we apply for a one-year grant or are these intended to be multi-year grants? Is this grant's work supposed to be completed within one year or can it be proposed for more than one year?

The length of time needed for the demonstration project is determined by the applicant. If only one year is needed, that should be reflected in the LOI narrative and budget description. However, if the applicant plans to execute the demonstration project until the end of the grant period, March 2027, this should be reflected in the LOI narrative and budget description.

Review Criteria

14. What does the following criteria mean “Must be a project that does not currently exist. While elements of the project can already exist, those elements must be brought together in a new and targeted way”?

The theory of change of the HEF is that in order to get to the equitable future we desire, there must be disruptive and innovative interventions or actions. Therefore, the HEF does not support the status quo. For this grant round, we will not fund projects that exist in their current form. However, projects that are bringing together an organization’s current work with new innovative ideas and elements will be considered for funded.



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15. The program was introduced by one organization in various regions. However, the program is completely new to the D.C. area. Wouldn't that be considered new in DC because it's a new geographic area where it has not previously operated? Please refer to question #14. The focus of this grant round is on innovation and disruption not merely if it is new to a geographical area.

16. Can you elaborate on "proof of concept"? Does that mean it has to be a tested program and not something new?

A proof of concept refers to evidence that sufficient research and development has gone into the design of the project to ensure the project's viability.

17. Aside from providing free healthcare that frees up an individual's resources to use for personal needs (and of course helps improve health), I am not quite seeing what a health-oriented nonprofit applicant would be doing that would be "building wealth" for clients.

Please refer to the Health Equity Fund's [website](#) which offers multiple examples of organizations funded to address the intersection of health and economic mobility. Also, please refer to pages 7 and 8 in the LOI for definitions.

18. Are you looking for a certain size/scope in terms of the number of people served/benefiting? Can the pilot serve a small number of people but make a longer-term/deeper-impact?

The demonstration project must be significant enough to show that the project has real potential and impact. We do not have any set numbers. However, it is a balance between the number served and the impact.

Project Focus Areas

19. Would a submission focusing on violence prevention in underserved communities be eligible for consideration?

We do not have a preference on which topics will receive funding. However, all proposals must meet the strategic goals of the Health Equity Fund and the review criteria.

20. Based on my understanding, the HEF prioritizes projects that utilize legislative and budgetary strategies to achieve systemic change. Does the HEF consider mutual aid as a strategy to achieve systemic change?

The previous grant round focused on policy, advocacy and systems change. Our discussion of this work was not to confuse current applicants but to share the Health Equity Fund's full scope of impact.



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21. Are housing, health, or education focused projects sufficiently linked to economic mobility to be considered?

Please refer to question #19.

Budget/Award

22. Is there a budget range that you require for the projects?

The total amount available for this opportunity is \$55 million, to be distributed by March 2026 (or when funds are exhausted). However, no budget range has been set for this opportunity. Applicants will provide a budget narrative that supports the requested funding amount needed to accomplish the stated goals.

23. Can you share what you anticipate being the average size of awards or what the award ceiling for individual grant awards might be?

Please refer to question #22.

24. Can dollars be used for data collection, continuous quality improvement, and sustainability?

The HEF is working with American Institutes for Research (AIR) as the evaluator for this fund. Therefore, limited resources should be used for evaluation. The reason we require a proof of concept is to ensure the viability of the project and to ensure sufficient research and development has gone into the design of the project. Finally, the applicant must include a plan for sustainability. The Health Equity Fund's definition of sustainability can be found on page #6 of the LOI.

25. I noticed that this calls for a new project that would be able to be scaled and then asks how we intend to fund it afterwards. If the proof of concept is sound, would the HEF be looking to be part of funding its scaling?

The Health Equity Fund will end in March 2027. For that reason, there will be no additional funding or resources available to financially support the project on an ongoing basis. That is why we ask applicants to explain how the organization plans for sustainability once Health Equity Fund funding ends so that no harm is done to communities. Please see page #6 for the Health Equity Fund's definition of sustainability.

26. Will the grant funds be general operating, or specific to anticipated costs of the program?

These are flexible spending grants. Although we do not limit how funds are spent, it must support the proposed work described in the LOI narrative.

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27. Are there grant floor or ceilings? Target indirect costs?

Please refer to questions #22 and #26. These are flexible spending grants. Although we do not limit how funds are spent, it must support the proposed work which can include indirect costs.

28. Will all the grant funds be distributed to the grantee at the beginning of the grant?

For multi-year grants, a portion of funds will be paid upfront, and remaining payments will be tied to submitting yearly reports. How and in what amounts funds are issued yearly will be discussed with the awardee since every project will have different needs based on their yearly goals.

29. Can a consultant be in multiple applications?

Yes, if it supports the goals and outcomes of the project.

30. Can funding be used for community listening sessions or feedback as part of the larger project?

Yes, if it supports the goals and outcomes of the project.

Application Process

31. How is the Community Foundation adjusting its grant application to accommodate that there are two partners that need to respond to each question? Five pages to answer the questions for BOTH organization's expertise, background, etc. seems limited?

Please spend no more than 1 page on the organization's expertise, background, etc. Those should be brief and concise. The focus of the narrative should be on the program design.

32. I see the prompt for the Tax ID #. Can we use a fiscal sponsor's information instead?

Yes. Also, please note that are two application links:

One with Tax ID requirement -

<https://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=5491&fid=35321>

One without Tax ID requirement -

<https://us.grantrequest.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fapplication.aspx%3fsid%3d5491%26fid%3d35322&sid=5491&fid=35322>

33. Do we apply through the portal through one organization's name? Do the partners need to apply as well? Or will one for all partners work?

The LOI response will be submitted by one of the applicants, who, for purposes of this submission process, will be titled the Lead Organization. The joint narrative

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will be submitted by them along with all the other required attachments. The Lead Organization will be the point of contact for The Community Foundation.

Review/Award Process

34. So, the initial application review is the Greater Washington Community Foundation, and then the final approval is the HEC board?

Please see pages 4 – 5 of the LOI for the application/funding process.

35. If we propose a project that is too large a budget for HEF, would you scale it down for an award (or scale it up if you think it could be more impactful reaching more people)?

If selected to advance, budget and scale will be part of the conversation.

36. If we do not advance to the next stage, can we apply again?

Yes, however please refer to question #2 for more details.

37. If awarded, what are the reporting requirements and expectations as a grantee partner?

Once awarded, grantee partners will be required to:

- Submit yearly program and expense reports;
- Attend in-person and virtual events hosted by the evaluation agency (2-3 a year);
- Work closely with the evaluation agency; and
- Grant partners are also encouraged to attend our bi-monthly collaborative spaces convenings and any learning series events hosted to support the needs of the HEF's grant partners.

Miscellaneous

38. Is there a way to know who else is applying so we can team together?

No, we cannot disclose that information since we do not have consent from all who are interested in applying.

39. Do you have summaries or abstracts of what you have funded in prior rounds?

Information regarding current grantees can be found here:

Below are links to our current grantees. Please note that each grant opportunity has had a different approach to addressing economic mobility/wealth building and its impact on health outcomes.

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- <https://www.thecommunityfoundation.org/news/greater-washington-community-foundation-announces-9-million-in-health-equity-fund-grants>
- <https://www.thecommunityfoundation.org/news/the-faces-of-health-equity-meet-our-nonprofit-partners>

40. Have you developed any Cohort Groups with HEF Grantees so that grantees are aware of other programs, how to work together, or how not to duplicate efforts. Current grantee partners are brought together for learning opportunities, regular meetings, and collaboration.

41. Will additional HEF grant rounds be announced between now and the deadline for this grant? If so, can we receive when these will be announced so we can plan accordingly in case we want to apply for those grant rounds as well but they happen as the same year as we apply.

Future grant opportunities will be determined Spring 2024. If the decision is to open another, it will be posted on our webpage.

Resources

42. Can you please give us the contact information for the team?

For questions regarding the grant round: Isabel Spake -
ispake@thecommunityfoundation.org.

For technical assistance: Carmen Rosa - crosa@thecommunityfoundation.org

43. Link to OpEd in the Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/06/17/we-must-reimaginehow-address-dcs-persistent-health-inequities/>

44. Link to the Three Horizons Framework

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5KfRQJqpPU&t=1s