

**Frequently Asked Questions
June 21, 2022
HEF Webinar**

Eligibility Questions:

1. What types of organizations may apply?

The applicant (defined as the organization 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 that serves as the applicant. The fiscal sponsor must meet all eligibility requirements at the time of submission.

2. Please describe the geographic eligibility requirements.

The opportunity is strictly prohibited to DC proper only. Organizations must be both located in the District of Columbia as well as serve the residents of the District. Funding may not be used for any activities outside of Washington, DC. To evaluate if an organization is eligible for funding, please consider the following:

- The applicant has a DC based operating site/office;
- The applicant must have DC based staff;
- The applicant has a DC focused board of directors; and
- The applicant has a DC specific organizational budget.

If the applicant is a national organization, the local chapter or affiliate must apply and meet all the criteria listed above.

3. Please further define hospitals and health systems that are not eligible. Are Associations that support and partner with community health centers and primary care providers eligible?

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

4. Can a healthcare organization be a partner as part of this grant?

An applicant that meets the common eligibility requirements can partner with a healthcare organization.

5. Can the submitting organization be a university?

Yes, if they meet the common eligibility requirements.

6. Is this open to start up organizations?

Yes, if they meet the common eligibility requirements.

7. Can the work include advocacy or only direct services?

Yes, if they meet the common eligibility requirements. Advocacy can be an aspect of the proposed project. However, solely focusing on advocacy will not likely meet the standards of breaking from the status quo and embodying the spirit of disruption and innovation.

8. Can two nonprofits submit a joint proposal?

Although two non-profits can work jointly on a proposal and project, only one of the non-profits can submit the application. If selected, they will be the grant point of contact and responsible for overseeing their awarded project. However, the partner non-profit can be added to the budget, participate in reporting, etc.

9. Are there requirements for diversity in staff or board for organizations applying?

The Community Foundation is looking to support organizations whose staff, executive leadership and boards reflect the communities they serve.

10. Is there a maximum organization budget size that you will not fund? Will you fund larger, more established organizations working in DC?

Large, well-established organizations are eligible for funding if they meet the common eligibility requirements.

Budget and Funding Questions:

11. What are the amounts that can be solicited?

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. The amount granted per organization will range depending on the size of the organization's operating budget.

12. Will the \$50-\$100K/1\$50K-\$200K award be distributed over two years? Or will the \$50-\$100K/1\$50K-\$200K award be distributed each year for two years?

Organizations with operating budgets of \$750,000 and below are eligible for grants ranging from \$50,000-\$100,000 per year. In total, over two years, \$100,000-\$200,000 will be awarded per grantee. Organizations with operating budgets above \$750,000 are eligible for grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year. In total, over two years, \$300,000-\$400,000 will be awarded per grantee.

13. What is the funding amount for this first Health Equity Fund initiative?

The Community Foundation is looking to award \$10 million.

14. Can indirect costs and administrative overhead be added to the budget?

Since this opportunity will provide two-year general operating grants, indirect costs and administrative overhead are expected.

15. How many applications will be funded?

The Community Foundation is expecting to fund 40 organizations. The goal is to fund 20 within the \$50,000-\$100,000 per year eligibility range and 20 within the \$150,000-\$200,000 per year eligibility range.

16. Are regrants allowed or subgrants?

No, however organizations can serve in the capacity of a fiscal sponsor for another organization.

Timeline Questions:

17. What is the official grant period?

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024

18. Why is the application timeline so short?

The Community Foundation has a standard timeline of six (6) weeks for all open applications.

Underserved Populations Questions:

19. Who is considered an underserved or marginalized population?

Please note that this grant opportunity is not specific to any one population. The grant is inclusive of any group that is experiencing the greatest health disparities and/or the greatest inequities in DC.

Disruptive and Innovative Models Questions:

20. Do would we need to invent a new model? Or can we submit funding for an existing disruptive model?

Disruptive and innovative does not mean that an applicant must create a new model. If the applicant already has a model in place that is disruptive and innovative but requires more financial support to scale up, that model can be proposed.

21. Can you expand on what economic mobility is?

Economic mobility describes how someone's economic well-being changes over time. Most often, economic mobility looks at how someone's income changes over their lifetime. When someone's income improves over their life, that person is considered upwardly mobile. This means their economic situation is getting better over the course of their life. By contrast, when someone's income stays flat or decreases over their life, that person is considered downwardly mobile.

Economic mobility, therefore, describes the opportunity available to one individual. However, economic mobility is often more useful when scaled to summarize the overall opportunity in a neighborhood, community, geographical area, or population. For example, due to historical policy decisions, some neighborhoods provide a higher rate of upward mobility.

Economic mobility can also refer to the changes in economic outcomes for groups of people, or generations over time. Because it shows us economic status over time, there are two elements that make up a measure of economic mobility: time and an economic indicator. Most often, income is the easiest economic indicator to use. However, there are many elements that feed into economic well-being.

22. Could you please provide an example of a disruptive program tied to economic mobility?

We cannot provide any additional examples other than the one provided - that example described how the strategy of housing readiness was disrupted and replaced with the new approach of housing first. Disruption can be defined as radical change to an existing industry, activity, or process that sets a sector, issue or solution on a different course or trajectory.

23. Can you say a bit more about some of the key health equity outcomes that you are seeking to impact with this funding?

Recognizing that non-medical factors account for 80% of an individual's health status and medical care and access to services account for 20%, over the next five years, the Health Equity Committee will develop and fund structures that eliminate health inequities, and those that support ongoing assurance¹ of the conditions for optimal health for all people.

Health equity is a process of assurance¹ of the conditions for optimal health for all people. It requires at least three things:

- valuing all individuals and populations;
- recognizing and rectifying historical injustices; and
- providing resources to need.

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.*

Evaluation:

24. How are proposals evaluated?

The Community Foundation is using its standard process of panels consisting of both internal and external reviewers. Applications will be assessed and scored based on the posted [RFA](#) and the application questions.

Future Rounds:

25. Although this round is focused on economic mobility, what are the other areas that will also be focused on during the next four years?

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 (listed in no particular order):

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

Please note that this grant round and future rounds will help educate future grant focuses, so the listed opportunities may be adjusted based on what is gleaned.

26. Do you have a timeline for releasing the remaining RFPs?

No, we do not.

27. Can an organization receive grants from more than one part of the HEF?

Selection criteria for future grants rounds have not yet been determined.

Resources:

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

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

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

29. Can you provide a link to the mentioned OpEd in the Washington Post?

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