

MGH Executive Committee on Community Health (ECOCH) Grants Program

2019 Request for Applications

In 2014, The MGH General Executive Committee authorized the creation of the [Executive Committee on Community Health](#) (ECOCH) to promote community health improvement and ensure health equity while leveraging all components of the MGH mission: patient care, teaching, research, and community health. To improve health across populations and across the life course, ECOCH's [strategic priorities](#) focus on access to care, the social determinants of health, and race equity.

ECOCH supports MGH clinical departments in achieving their community health improvement goals by providing [guidelines](#), technical assistance, and grant funding. Since 2016, a total of 13 teams across 9 departments have received ECOCH grants. We are pleased to announce the availability of funds to support up to 5 new grants to continue to foster clinical departments' efforts to improve community health and advance health equity.

Description of funding

ECOCH is offering grants of up to \$30,000 total costs inclusive of indirect costs to be used within 1 year.

Eligibility

- Any MGH faculty, staff, or trainee may apply as individuals or teams.
- Applicants must identify one faculty or staff member to lead and provide direct oversight to the proposed project.
- Applicants must provide letters of support from Chiefs of any involved MGH departments.

Selection criteria

A multidisciplinary team of community health leaders will review all proposals. Projects must enhance clinical departments' abilities to improve community health and advance health equity. Proposals may not seek to supplant funds already supporting current efforts but could expand or add new components to existing projects. Preference will be given to:

- Projects that focus on one or more of ECOCH's current [strategic priorities](#) of access to care, social determinants of health, and race equity.
- Proposals that demonstrate a good faith effort to engage their departmental community health leaders and incorporate other suggestions described in the attached guidelines.
- Projects that demonstrate an inclusive planning process, ideally engaging multiple staff and, when relevant, members of the communities to be served.
- Proposals that provide robust measurement and evaluation plans, realistic

timelines, and detailed sustainability plans.

Application requirements

- **Project title**
- **Project members and roles**, specifying one person who would be leading the project and providing oversight
- **Proposed plan** (single-spaced, 12-point font, one inch margins, maximum 5 pages exclusive of references, budget, and chief letters) including:
 - **Specific aims**
 - **Population to be served**
 - **Project description**
 - How this project will address one of the three ECOCH priorities
 - How will it engage your department and departmental leadership in community health
 - Please describe your planning process
 - **Background and preliminary data** on the problem you are addressing
 - **Methods**, including measurement and evaluation plan
 - **Timeline**, incorporating key milestones
 - **Sustainability plan**, describing how this project could continue benefiting the community once funding ends
 - **IRB submission**, if applicable (please note that funding will not start until IRB approval notice is provided)
 - **References**
- **Proposed budget and justification**, this cannot exceed \$30,000 total costs inclusive of indirect costs over 1 year.
- **Letters of support**
 - By Chiefs of departments involved, stating their support and commitment to this project while describing the departmental structure in place to advance community health (for example, describing who their community health leader is and how this project will synergize with the department's community health improvement strategic plan)
 - By any community groups or agencies that your team will partner with to execute this proposal, stating their support and commitment to this project while describing their specific role

Please send complete applications electronically to Nessa Regan at nregan1@partners.org by 5 PM EST on June 14.

All applicants will be notified of selection results by the ECOCH Grants leadership. If awarded, grantees will be expected to:

- Provide semi-annual updates on progress and expenditures documenting impact of the effort, both within MGH and in the community.
- Share a description of the effort, including lessons learned, with others at MGH and in the community.

- Collaborate with ECOCH on how to leverage their experience for impact across MGH.
- Present to ECOCH.

Key dates and deadlines:

Activity	Date(s)
Proposal released	May 1
Applications due	June 14
Awards announced	August 1
Grants begin	October 1