

MGH Community Health Impact Funds

Mental and Behavioral Health Funds Allocation/Letter of Intent (LOI) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Massachusetts-based academic centers, other non-profit community-based organizations and municipalities servicing Suffolk County are eligible to apply.

Internal MGB affiliated community, clinical or research departments are **NOT** eligible for this funding.

2. What is the timeline for funding and how much is expected to be allocated to the two strategies?

A total funding amount of \$15 million dollars will be distributed over the next 7 years. The schedule of funding opportunities is as follows:

Funding for strategy A- Expand Behavioral Health services:

Available now: \$2 Million. An additional \$5 million dollars will be released in future years. \$7 Million total will be released.

Funding for strategy B- Innovative Youth Well-being Interventions

Available now: \$1 Million. An additional \$7 million dollars will be released in future years. \$8 Million in total will be released.

Total to be allocated during the current grant opportunity: \$2 Million for Strategy A, and \$1 Million for strategy B.

Projects for strategy A may extend over 3 years.

Projects for strategy B may extend 1 to 2 years.

Proposals should reflect this intention.

3. What types of mental and behavioral grants are available and how do they differ?

Mental and behavioral health strategies approved for this funding:

A) Expand Behavioral Health Services

Increase community-based behavioral health centers and other similar initiatives (restorative justice and community-led behavioral health initiatives, e.g., group work) for substance use disorder (SUD) and trauma-informed care, for Black, Hispanic, and non-English speaking individuals.

B) Innovative Youth Well-being Interventions

Engage schools in health and wellness programs, exercise education, SUD and mental health prevention and interventions.

Proposed projects should address only one of the strategies listed. We are funding projects that are “upstream” which means that the project’s aim is to make it easier for everyone to get mental health and wellness help. This is achieved by changing the way services are offered or changing the rules and regulations that control these services, leading to enhanced access for people who have been historically left out. For example:

1. A community-based organization partners with mental health providers to bring services to a neighborhood.
2. A school partners with mental health or wellness provider(s) to offer services on campus.
3. A school updates its disciplinary guidelines and implements a new disciplinary process.

4. What documentation (forms or proof of status) is required?

No documents outside of the LOI are required at this time.

If invited to submit a full proposal, you will need to include all the components described and required by the Request for Proposals such as a W-9 form.

5. What are the priority neighborhoods?

- Any Boston neighborhood
- City of Chelsea
- City of Revere
- Town of Winthrop

6. Is there a limit to the amount of funds requested?

- Strategy A: \$2M available for an estimated 8-10 awards.
Max amount awarded, up to \$300,000.00 to be used over 3 years.
Indirect costs at 20%
- Strategy B: \$1M available for an estimate of at least 10 awards.
Max amount awarded \$75,000.00 to be used over 1 year.
Indirect costs at 20%



Organizations are asked to please request only what is needed for the proposed project.

During this phase of the process, the allocation committee will gain an understanding of the need in communities and the creative ways organizations and municipalities would like to respond to these needs.

7. What are the deadlines and announcement dates?

Event	Date
1. Letter of Intent (LOI) Opens	April 22, 2024
2. Informational Forum for LOI	May 1, from 12 to 1:30 PM, 2024
3. Due Date for Letter of Intent	May 17, 2024
4. Selected applicants get notified	June 24, 2024
5. Release of final Request for Proposals	June 26, 2024
6. RFP Technical support	Upon request
7. Due date for RFP	July 26, 2024
8. Notification of Awards	September, 2024

8. Can one organization apply for more than one grant?

Yes, organizations can submit more than one LOI if the organization has multiple projects that fit the criteria. However, please note that every LOI submitted is competing against all others submitted, even against those submitted by the same organization.

9. What are the restrictions on the usage of these funds?

Per Department of Public Health guidelines, funds must address social determinants of health (SDoH) and health equity with an upstream (structural/policy) approach to improving community health in the target areas.

These funds must address Mental and Behavioral Health (M&BH) through the strategies identified by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and overseen by the Mental and Behavioral Health Allocation Committee outlined in question #3. Proposals must serve one or more of the listed regions (see question #5). As per the Department of Public Health, funds are **NOT** allowed to be awarded to the following projects or activities:

- 1. Medical treatments
- 2. Clinical/community linkage programs for existing or future patients
- 3. Capital and operating expenses for medical programs



4. Costs of transportation to/from the hospital and services unless necessary to accomplish objectives of a specific community health improvement strategy.
5. Reimbursed services, costs associated with developing or expanding interpretive services.
6. Funding support for (Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Coordinating organizations (such as the Boston Collaborative, or North Suffolk Collaborative, etc.)

10. Will there be an information session to learn more?

Yes! We are offering an information forum on May 1 from 12-1:30. To attend, please register [here](#).

11. Where can I find help to access and work on the LOI form?

We will be offering a training during the information forum on May 1 from 12-1:30. Also, attached to the LOI application site is an instructional document that will walk you through the steps on how to register for an account in Survey Monkey Apply to access and fill out the LOI.

For more specific questions, feel free to contact **Sylvia Chiang** at srchiang@mgh.harvard.edu.

12. What criteria will be considered in the evaluation of the LOI?

The M&BH Allocation Committee will be looking for the following criteria in the LOI:

- The project addresses one or more of the M&BH strategies outlined, if B, it should be innovative.
- The project addresses the needs of priority neighborhoods and areas.
- The project impacts a policy, system, or environmental change.
- The project addresses equity in our communities by benefitting disenfranchised groups.
- The applicant reflects the capacity to manage and implement the project.
- The impact of the project aligns with the cost.
- The project outlines a strong community engagement process.

The review committee will ensure that proposals represent work from all areas of Suffolk County.

For further questions please submit your inquiry to srchiang@mgh.harvard.edu. These FAQs will be updated regularly with answers posted to our MGH website.

