



CITY *of* **BOSTON**

Boston Public Health Commission
Executive Office

Request for Proposal
Community Health Equity Empowerment Fund

Summer 2023

RFP Timeline

Monday July 24 th 2023	RFP available online on boston.gov/bids
Thursday July 27 th 2023	Questions due in writing by 5:00 PM EST to: strategicpartnership@bphc.org Subject – Proposal for Community Health Equity Empowerment Fund
Monday July 31 th , 2023	Responses to questions available for viewing on boston.gov/bids 5:00 PM EST, Monday July 31 th .
Friday August 18 th , 2023	Proposal due via email by 5:00 PM EST to: Melissa Hector Director of Equitable and Strategic Initiatives strategicpartnership@bphc.org & Procurement@bphc.org Subject – Proposal for Community Health Equity Empowerment Fund
Monday September 11 th , 2023	Notification of Decision: Desired date for notification of award to proposer however, BPHC has the discretion to extend this date without notice. The contract(s) results from this RFP shall be in effect when all necessary contract documentation is fully executed by BPHC and awarded vendor(s).

Introduction

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting the health and well-being of all Boston residents. To best serve its residents, BPHC is committed to advancing healthy equity through coordinated community engagement and mobilization.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, BPHC has led city-wide efforts around policies and practices to reduce the impact of COVID-19, including intensive efforts to address racial inequities in the pandemic such as seen in access to personal protective equipment, COVID-19 testing, vaccination and necessities, such as food.

Since the City’s Declaration of the Public Health Emergency in March 2020, BPHC has collaborated with community based organizations (CBO’s) inclusive of non-profits and coalitions, as well as Community Health Center (CHC) partners to engage neighborhoods and communities highly impacted by throughout the pandemic. These partnerships have been successful in improving access to care and to advancing healthy equity among Boston residents.

Beyond COVID-19, persistent racial, ethnic and geographic health disparities exist throughout Boston. For example, Black Boston residents experienced the greatest increase in premature mortality rate (37.3%) compared to all other Boston residents from 2017 to 2021. Further, in 2021, premature mortality was more than twice as high in Dorchester (293.9) and Roxbury (282.9), neighborhoods with higher concentrations of Black and Latinx residents and lower median income, than it was in Back Bay, Downtown, and Beacon Hill (140.3). Significant disparities have also been noted in mortality due to cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease as well as in emergency department visits due to asthma.

The Community Health Equity Empowerment (CHEE) Fund is a derivative of the Boston Public Health Commission’s (BPHC’s) Advancing Health Equity Framework (2020-2023, 2020)¹. Through inserting equitable and inclusive community engagement practices, the purpose of this fund will extend BPHC’s strategy for advancing health equity for individuals and families residing in Boston, and will do so, by embedding resources within non-profit community-based organizations to address persistent health disparities such as those described above.

The CHEE Fund will support local non-profit, community-based organizations who work with Community Health Centers (CHCs) in Boston to decrease health inequity and build stronger health and public health systems. This grant award will also address imbalances in resources and opportunities in economic, social, and other obstacles to health and health care within communities in most resource limited neighborhoods.

In effort to decrease health disparities, the Boston Public Health Commission seeks qualified community-based organizations that are certified 501C-3 non-profit organizations and community groups or coalitions with a certified 501C-3 fiscal sponsor to apply for this funding opportunity. Proposals should propose a health equity and community engagement strategy. Partnering with a local Boston based Federally Qualified Community Health Center is highly suggested to achieve the intended outcomes. Priority will be given to application that demonstrate any combination of the following:

- Establishment and expansion of prevention efforts (mobile or standing)
- Development or strengthening of programming involving community health workers or patient navigators
- Interventions addressing the root causes of challenges related to social determinants of health
- Improving health literacy regarding critical areas of persistent disparity
- Engagement of new patients in care and reengagement of those who have been lost to follow-up or who have deferred care due to COVID-19
- Priority will be given to CBOs currently serving historically marginalized communities and populations identified as high priority neighborhoods with lowest life expectancy such as Roxbury and Mattapan.

Actively practicing equitable access interventions and demonstrating strong strategies to reduce health inequities within the service area of community health center organizations

Moreover, technical, and operational development assistance will be provided by BPHC programs to further build on the capacity of organizations granted through this fund. This funding source is a champion to strategic change. It will mobilize strategies and discourse surrounding health equity and initiate a sustainable investment.

Programs and services that address disparities among Black/African American, Latinx and Asian/PI populations, and other groups that have been impacted by systemic inequity, such as non-US populations or unsheltered individuals, will be highly considered. Engagement with local community organizations and/or faith-based leaders and with businesses to strengthen community health equity is highly encouraged.

The grantee will work with BPHC's Director of Equitable and Strategic Initiatives to create a more coordinated approach to unique health despaired challenges historically impacted by social determinants of health such as the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in BIPOC communities.

All service contracts awarded by the Boston Public Health Commission may be subject to following the City of Boston's living wage ordinance. This ordinance requires that all employees working on sizable city contracts earn an hourly wage that is enough for a family of four to live at or above the federal poverty level. This wage amount called the living wage, is recalculated every year. For more information, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/worker-empowerment/living-wage-division>.

As part of BPHC's efforts to have an equitable procurement process, BPHC will consider and encourage underrepresented businesses that include Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBE), Women-owned Business Enterprises (WBE), Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBE), Disability-owned Business Enterprise (DOBE), Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Business Enterprises (LGBTBE), and Small Local Businesses Enterprise (SLBE) to apply to this RFP.

Scope of Work

The organization(s) chosen will support engagement or reengagement in care, sustain, and/or implement services, programs including access to treatment and care that aide in mitigating and preventing health inequities:

The awarded grantee must commit to the following:

- Develop programming and/or enhance current programming communications to increase engagement in care
- Provide scheduled metrics and data reporting as directed by Director of Equitable and Strategic Initiatives. For example:
 - Number of interactions with individuals
 - Number of referrals to services or local resources
- Attendance at any potential scheduled meetings or any one on one to discuss relevant immediate adaptive measures based on BPHC discretion

The BPHC shall negotiate with contractors any requirements not set forth in the RFP.

Fund Priorities

The CHEE Fund will prioritize:

- Collaborative initiatives that propose working with community health centers (CHCs) to connect residents to health care as in patient navigation supports, community health worker engagement efforts, and through messaging and dissemination of information of preventative health, recovery, and treatment resource information
- Historically marginalized and under resourced Boston-based neighborhoods
- Non-profit community-based organizations, groups and coalitions (fiscally sponsored) with intent to create and increase access to healthcare and improve health outcomes for marginalized communities
- Fostering community partnerships or coalitions, such as organizations working with others, such as co-developing plans to advance health equity within under resourced communities

Qualifications

Qualified organizations will demonstrate expertise in community engagement, public health, and creating access to health care prevention and intervention as well as:

- Demonstrated expertise in administering sustainable grassroots initiatives, programs and services
- Demonstrate ability to create and sustain existing partnerships with community members, businesses and other stakeholder community-based organizations serving populations highly impacted by health disparities.
- Demonstrate expertise in communicating about public health issues using a social justice lens.
- Demonstrate knowledge of and network of relationships in respective neighborhood catchment area(s).
- Applicants may only apply for programs and services that run on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Funding will NOT be available for one-time events.
- Programs and services must serve Boston individuals.

- Programs and services rendered by the grant award must be free for participants.

Period of Performance

The contract will begin on or about August 25, 2023, through August 24, 2025, with potential to renew, depending upon performance. The BPHC Standard Contract or Subaward Agreement forms are required and must be fully executed before services can begin.

- Budgets should not exceed \$200,000 for the 24-month period.
- BPHC has the discretion to extend this deadline as needed without notice to the bidders, utilizing other funding sources. In addition, BPHC may cancel this bid if funding does not become available for the project.

Proposal Requirements

To be considered for funding, the proposal must include the following in this order:

1. Description of your proposed program, including justifications for this approach and your qualifications to complete the approach, no longer than one (1) page.
2. All proposals should include an anticipated timeline of the grantee's work.
3. Include description of all senior leadership, supervisors or main point of operations taking lead on the scope of work.
4. Detailed, itemized budget for period of performance, including costs specific to activities and deliverables within the scope of service. (Indirect Costs/Administrative Costs are capped at 10% of your Direct Costs unless your organization has a Federally Negotiated Rate Agreement)
5. An example of relevant work conducted by the respondent, if applicable.
6. The response should not exceed five (5) written pages.

Submission Instructions

Submit proposals to:

Melissa Hector
Director of Equitable and Strategic Initiatives
strategicpartnership@bphc.org & Procurement @bphc.org

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 PM EST on August 18th
There will be no exceptions to this deadline.