



Competitive Bid for Project Proposals

LHD Health Disparities Funding

for Charles County, Maryland

(August 15, 2024-June 30, 2025)

RFP Number: CCDOH-2025-04

The Charles County Department of Health, with support from the Maryland Department of Health and the CDC, will be able to provide funding to local community non-profit organizations for the time period of August 15, 2024, to June 30, 2025. See section C below for project expectations.

*Competitive project bids are currently being accepted in **Addressing Health Disparities in Charles County**. Funding will be based on size and quality of projects. Grant amounts range between \$200-30,000 and will vary depending on the strength of the application and its proposed activities.*

A. Overview and Justification:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to extend far beyond what any of us could have imagined and has had a ripple effect impacting every aspect of our lives. While we are all trying to adjust to the “new normal”, some communities have been hit harder than others, and continue to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at disproportionate rates. It has exacerbated existing health disparities within at-risk and underserved communities on a global scale, creating a demand for nonprofits to provide programs and services beyond their normal delivery. Additional funding from federal, state, and local government agencies will aid non-profit organizations in fulfilling their missions to help those most in need.

The non-profit organizations in Charles County have a long-standing history of working collaboratively with the health department to address health disparities and promote health equity. Communities must ensure that access to public supports like health care and food assistance do not exclude people because they have low incomes, are out of work, or because of their immigration status.

Public health research has shown health outcomes are strongly affected by socioeconomic factors, like quality of housing, transportation access, and income. We also know that people of color are more likely to have worse health outcomes, and could be more vulnerable to worse health outcomes in the midst of this public health crisis and rapidly changing economy.

During the coronavirus pandemic, respiratory health is of particular concern. Those with respiratory health issues are among the most vulnerable to the most serious health consequences of coronavirus.

Communities of color are at greater risk, given higher prevalence of respiratory conditions; for example, Black Americans are more likely to suffer from asthma than white Americans.

People of color are also more at risk during this public health crisis because they are less likely to have access to affordable health care. Despite significant improvements over the past decade thanks to the Affordable Care Act, people of color are still less likely to have health insurance. Furthermore, people who are undocumented are less likely to see a doctor due to cost or concerns about use of public insurance options. Nationally, almost

half of undocumented people are uninsured compared to 9 percent for citizens.

Lastly, people of color are also more likely to be employed in essential positions, such as grocery and childcare workers, that continue to serve our communities but in which it is harder for workers to protect themselves from illness.

While these health disparities did exist before the onset of COVID-19, it is evident that the effects of the pandemic have intensified their impact. As we all adjust to “the new normal” and move towards recovery, it is imperative that our most vulnerable populations are not overlooked or left behind.

B. Community Project Goal:

Funding bids should focus on developing impactful activities to support the Charles County Department of Health’s goal of addressing health disparities within Charles County and should strive to maximize the reach and impact.

C. Project Expectation:

Organization must demonstrate the ability and resources to:

1. Access the population designated to be served by the project proposal.
2. Make clear action plans and track measurable outcomes to be reported as required. (Refer to Narrative, Expenditures & Performance Measures Report forms to assist developing accurate performance measures plan).
3. Be fiscally responsible in reporting back with receipts or documentation how the funds were spent. Organizations who are currently receiving LHD Health Disparities Funding from another health department are not eligible to apply for this funding. The Charles County Department of Health must ensure that there is no redundancy in funds administered to community organizations for the same function.
4. **To submit the required quarterly Performance Reports during the grant period. Report due dates are the 15th of the next month. (Report due dates will be October 15, 2024, January 15, 2025, April 15, 2025 and July 15, 2025.)**

D. Project Bid should include:

- **Letter of Interest** describing your organization. Please include the RFP number on your application: CCDOH-2025-04.
- **Project Description must include:**
 - Specific project plan and implementation strategy
 - Demographic population to be reached and why (provide justification data if available).
 - Number of people to be educated (numerical tracking method must be incorporated into the plan to track the number of people reached and number of activities, etc.)
 - Explanation of what the requested funds will be used for in the Narrative section & include a Project Budget page (receipts will be required).

Suggested Items for Non-Profit Project Bids and Budgets:

- Staffing to do the additional outreach needed to vulnerable and medically underserved populations
- Educational supplies such as brochures, visual displays
- Advertising of outreach events
- Advertising of and marketing for culturally competent/appropriate messaging surrounding COVID-19 and/or other health concerns experiencing disparities i.e. videos, posters, billboards
- Items to address the social determinants of health that are impacting county residents, as well as basic essentials such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, lotion, diapers, wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning products, soap, etc.

Limit submission to no more than 3 – 4 pages.

Due date for submissions: August 2, 2024 by 4:30 PM

Submissions may be sent by mail or e-mail to:

Charles County Department of Health

Attn: Valerie Dent

4545 Crain Hwy, White Plains MD 20695

valerie.dent@maryland.gov

If you have questions, please call (301) 609-6876 or e-mail valerie.dent@maryland.gov .

The Charles County Department of Health reserves the right to select the proposal(s) that best meet the requirements of the grant project. This project is an equal opportunity program. A list of resources is provided in the attachment for assistance in building and justifying your project plans.