



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21401

Wes Moore, Governor – Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

For Immediate Release

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**COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION ISSUES HEALTH EQUITY
RESOURCE COMMUNITIES CALL FOR PROPOSALS**
Approximately \$42 million in new grant funding to be awarded across the state

(Annapolis, MD)— The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) has issued its Call for Proposals for the Health Equity Resource Communities (HERC) grant program, which will provide approximately \$42 million in new grant funding to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in underserved communities. This funding made available by the Maryland General Assembly is part of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act and builds on the Pathways to Health Equity program established two years ago.

Proposals are due to the CHRC on December 5 and the CHRC will be hosting a Frequently Asked Questions call for potential applicants on October 16 at 9:30 am. Grant awards will be made by the CHRC Commissioners in February 2024. A copy of the RFP can be accessed at the CHRC’s website at <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx>.

“This is an important investment made by the Maryland General Assembly,” commented Ed Kasemeyer, CHRC Chairman. “This funding will help expand access and support innovative and effective strategies to reduce health disparities.”

The Commission, together with the HERC Advisory Committee, is launching a public engagement campaign to inform local communities about the program and to provide opportunities to discuss local priorities and develop partnerships. A series of in-person and virtual meetings will be held across the state in October and November, leading up to the application deadline of December 5. The dates and times of these meetings will be posted on the CHRC’s website as they are finalized. If you would like more information about these forums or have questions about the HERC RFP, please visit the HERC website at <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/herc.aspx> or contact Nellie Washington by emailing nellie.washington@maryland.gov or calling 443-758-0606.

“We are convinced, after working so closely "In" the community, that equity must include: trust by a target unserved/underserved population to lend support, work with individuals in community from the onset to identify issues and priorities, and gain from knowledge within the target population whose expertise are valued, respected and included in all phases of the program,” commented Elizabeth Chung, Chair of the HERC Advisory Consumer Engagement and Community Outreach subcommittee.

ABOUT THE CHRC (health.maryland.gov/mchrc)

The Maryland General Assembly created the Community Health Resources Commission in 2005 to expand access to affordable, high-quality health care services in the state’s underserved communities; increase access to specialty health care services for the uninsured and low-income individuals; promote interconnected systems of care and partnerships among community health resources and hospitals; and help reduce avoidable hospital utilization. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health, and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. The CHRC has awarded 695 grants totaling \$126 million, supporting projects in every jurisdiction of the state. These projects have collectively served more than 525,000 Marylanders.

ABOUT THE HERC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/herc.aspx)

The Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee was established by the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act of 2021 to provide guidance to the CHRC in implementation of the Act. The Committee includes 11 members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President, who collectively have expertise in health disparities, Social Determinants of Health, health care costs and drivers, and other related issues. A list of Advisory Committee members can be found on the HERC webpage.

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