

STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

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Larry Hogan, Governor – Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor John A. Hurson, Chairman – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

Supporting Community Health Resources:

Building Capacity, Expanding Access, Promoting Health Equity, and Improving Population Health

Call for Proposals

November 10, 2015

OVERVIEW

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly through the *Community Health Care Access and Safety Net Act of 2005* to expand access to health care for low-income Marylanders and underserved communities in the state and to bolster the capacity of Maryland's health care safety net infrastructure to deliver affordable, high-quality health services. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. In creating the Commission, the Maryland General Assembly recognized the need to have an independent commission that focuses on strengthening the state's vibrant network of community health resources and addressing service delivery gaps in Maryland's dynamic health care marketplace. The fundamental policy objective of the CHRC's authorizing statute is the need to expand *access* to community health providers, since health insurance coverage alone is not always sufficient for at-risk communities to receive affordable, high-quality *health care* services.

Since its inception, the Commission has awarded 154 grants totaling \$52 million. These programs have provided services for more than 198,000 patients, resulting in more than 551,000 patient visits. Over this same period, the Commission has received 593 requests for consideration, totaling almost \$276.2 million in direct funding requests. The demand for CHRC grant funding has exceeded its available budget; the CHRC is in the position to fund approximately 18% of requests each year. Program sustainability is a top priority of the Commission, and CHRC grantees have used initial grant funds to leverage \$18.5 million in additional federal, private/non-profit, and local funding sources. The following table summarizes the types of grants that have been awarded by the CHRC since its inception.

Maryland Community Health Resources Commission							
·	# of Projects Funded	Total Award Provided	Cumulative Total				
Focus Area			Patients Seen/Enrolled	Visits Provided			
Expanding Access to Primary Care at Maryland's safety net providers	33	\$9,787,650	57,623	195,887			
Increasing Access to Dental Care for Low-income Marylanders	27	\$5,850,606	45,533	103,157			
Addressing Infant Mortality	16	\$3,315,697	12,328	37,586			
Reducing Health Care Costs through ED Diversions	6	\$1,994,327	13,804	27,943			
Promoting Health Information Technology at community health centers	9	\$3,268,661	Health Information Technology				
Providing Access to Behavioral Health and Drug Treatment Services	25	\$8,005,917	17,351	89,547			
Supporting Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs)	24	\$1,955,048	867	3,416			
Health Enterprise Zones	5	\$15,335,997	50,290	93,495			
Safety Net Capacity Building	6	\$1,325,570	267	691			
Childhood Obesity	3	\$1,510,000	35	140			
Total Grant Funding Provided	154	\$52,349,473					
Total Funding Requested	593	\$276,191,637	400.000	==4.040			
Number of Patient/Clients Served	198,098		198,098	551,862			
Number of Patient/Client Encounters	551,862						
Additional federal and private resources leveraged	57	\$18,566,892					

Reflecting the importance and relevance of the CHRC mission, the Maryland General Assembly approved legislation in 2014 that re-authorized the CHRC through June 2025. Part of the rationale for the reauthorization was that Maryland will continue to implement the Affordable Care Act and will continue to achieve increases in health insurance enrollment. More than 450,000 Marylanders enrolled in health insurance last year, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange has set the goal of increasing enrollment next year in the qualified health plans to

150,000 (up from 115,000). This increase in health insurance coverage will be part of the increased demand for essential health services in the community. It is critical that the state continues to build the capacity of safety net health care providers, most of whom have a historical mission of serving low-income individuals and at-risk communities, to deliver services and meet this demand for affordable and accessible health services by the newly insured.

Expanding the capacity to deliver services in the community will also serve to support the policy goals of Maryland's unique All-Payer Hospital Model, which transitions the hospital revenue structure to encourage value (population health) and quality of care (patient experience) rather than volume. Under an agreement with the federal government, the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) is working with Maryland hospitals to achieve several aggressive goals: (1) A cost savings of at least \$330 million in reduced Medicare per-beneficiary expenditures over the next five years; (2) Limiting hospital revenues to a per-capita growth rate of 3.58%, which is tied to the state's historical economic growth; and (3) Reducing the Medicare readmission rate in Maryland's hospitals to the national average within five years. Early results released from HSCRC showed that in the first year of the Model, hospital revenue growth was below the required metric. Medicare expenditures and readmission rates were still in the process of being evaluated. Achieving these goals will require new and expanded hospital-community partnerships and will present new opportunities, challenges, and expectations of community health resources. The CHRC will continue to work with HSCRC and others to promote these partnerships, while also maintaining its statutory focus on building the capacity of safety net providers and expanding access for low-income and Medicaid populations.

Supporting Community Health Resources: Building Capacity, Expanding Access, Promoting Health Equity, and Improving Population Health is the grants program of the CHRC. The program will award grants to community health resources serving Maryland residents. In The FY 2016 Call for Proposals, the Commission will consider projects in four categories:

- (1) Promoting comprehensive women's health services and reducing infant mortality rates;
- (2) Expanding access to dental care;
- (3) Integrating behavioral health service delivery and addressing the heroin and opioid epidemic; and
- (4) Expanding access to primary and preventative care services and chronic disease management.

¹ Monitoring of Maryland's New Maryland All-Payer Model Biannual Report – April 2015 http://www.hscrc.state.md.us/documents/Legal-Legislative/Reports/HSCRC-Biannual-Report-on-All-Payer-Model-April-2015.pdf

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KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

The following are the key dates and deadlines for the FY 2016 Call for Proposals.

November 10, 2015 Release of Call for Proposals

November 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Conference Call for Applicants

Dial in number is 1.866.247.6034 Conference code is 4102607046

December 15, 2015 – 12 noon Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent and Financial Audit

December 21, 2015 Applicants notified to submit a full proposal

January 11, 2016 – 12 noon Deadline for receipt of applications

Mid to late February 2016 Select number of applicants notified to present to the CHRC

Mid March 2016 Applicant presentations to the CHRC; award decisions

immediately follow presentations

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

The Commission will consider proposals from any community health resource eligible under the Commission's regulations at COMAR 10.45.05.

What is a Community Health Resource?

An organization can demonstrate that it is a community health resource in any of three ways:

- (1) **Designated Community Health Resource.** The CHRC has designated the following types of organizations, listed below, as community health resources. Each of these entities is eligible to apply for and receive grants from the Commission.
 - Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and FQHC "look-alikes"
 - Community health centers
 - Migrant health centers
 - Health care programs for the homeless
 - Primary care programs for public housing projects
 - Local nonprofit and community-owned health care programs
 - School-based health centers
 - Teaching clinics
 - Wellmobiles
 - Community health center-controlled operating networks
 - Historic Maryland primary care providers
 - Outpatient mental health clinics
 - Local health departments
 - Substance use treatment providers

Organizations not designated above may also qualify as a community health resource. To do so, organizations must demonstrate that they meet the Commission's criteria for either a Primary Health Care Services Community Health Resource or an Access Services Community Health Resource. If an organization has received a grant from the Commission, it is a Community Health Resource.

(2) Primary Health Care Services Community Health Resource. Organizations must demonstrate that they:

- Provide primary health care services;
- Offer those services on a sliding scale fee schedule; and
- Serve individuals residing in Maryland.

(3) Access Services Community Health Resource. Organizations must demonstrate that they:

- Assist individuals in gaining access to reduced price clinical health care services;
- Offer their services on a sliding scale fee schedule; and
- Serve individuals residing in Maryland.

Sliding Scale Fee Schedule Requirements

Organizations seeking to demonstrate that they are a Primary Health Care Services Community Health Resource or an Access Services Community Health Resource must offer a sliding scale fee schedule consistent with the following guidelines established by the Commission. An applicant organization's sliding scale fee schedule must provide discounts to individuals with a family income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, with no more than a nominal charge for individuals with a family income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. No additional fees may be charged, such as an enrollment fee. The availability of discounted fees must be publicly displayed, and discounted services must be available to all who meet the eligibility criteria. The organization must review documentation on income from applicants. An organization that provides discounted or free care to all individuals who seek service, or to those with family income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, complies with this requirement.

THE GRANTS PROGRAM - STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE FY 2016 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This Call for Proposals includes the following three overall strategic priorities: (1) Building capacity; (2) Addressing health disparities and promoting health equity; and (3) Reducing avoidable hospital utilization.

Building capacity. In 2014, more than 450,000 Marylanders² gained access to public and private health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Of these, more than 376,000 were deemed eligible for Medicaid. Many of these individuals had delayed seeking routine primary care for some time and may have complex and chronic health conditions. Those recently enrolled in Medicaid, those enrolling into low-cost, higher deductible insurance plans, and the

² Maryland Health Care Connection 2014 Annual Report http://www.marylandhbe.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MHBE-AnnualReport2014-Web.pdf

uninsured are the patients relying most on safety net providers. According to a study³ in 2012 supported by the Commonwealth Fund and undertaken by health policy researchers from the George Washington University School of Public Health, safety net patients continue to encounter barriers as they try to access primary and specialty care, and problems with care coordination are pervasive. It is critical that Maryland respond to the increased demand for health care services by these newly insured residents and build the capacity to deliver care in the community. The CHRC will support proposals that help boost the capacity of community health resources to serve additional individuals and provide support and technical assistance to safety net providers, many of whom have a historical mission of serving low-income and uninsured individuals.

Projects that clearly demonstrate the ability to deliver new or expanded services, increase capacity in underserved communities, and/or serve newly insured individuals will be given special consideration in this Call for Proposals.

Addressing health disparities and promoting health equity. Supporting access to affordable, high-quality health care for every Marylander regardless of ability to pay, health insurance status, income, or race is embedded in the Commission's core mission. While racial and ethnic health disparities in the State of Maryland have improved over the past decade, the rates of chronic and infectious diseases in minority communities continue to be a challenge for the health care system in the State. Elimination or improvement in these disparities is unlikely without addressing the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) affecting minority populations when health related programs and policies are developed. SDOH are the economic and social conditions that influence the health of individuals and populations such as poverty, lack of education, stigma, and racism. Patients living below the poverty line may be dealing with housing or food insecurities that lead to difficulty in filling prescriptions or keeping to specialized diets, while patients without reliable transportation may have difficulty traveling to and from doctor visits. Understanding and responding to these needs can lead to more favorable health outcomes for patients.

This Call for Proposals seeks to promote health equity and will provide special consideration for proposals that provide innovative community-based projects that aim to reduce the gap in health outcomes between minorities and whites in Maryland. Successful proposals will identify the SDOH for the target population and take into account the specific determinants that may be a barrier to improving minority health outcomes. **Proposals that identify specific, documented health disparities and offer intervention strategies that are tailored to address the identified disparities in the proposals will be given special consideration in this Call for Proposals.**

Reducing avoidable hospital utilization. Achieving the goals of the All-Payer Model will require creative hospital-community partnerships, data-driven intervention strategies, and strategic deployment of capital and resources. Promoting continuity of care through community-hospital partnerships and helping to reduce avoidable hospital ED visits, admissions, and readmissions are critical and universal policy goals. In 2014, the CHRC sponsored a number of regional forums with DHMH, HSCRC, and the Maryland Hospital Association to highlight

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³ http://publichealth.gwu.edu/departments/healthpolicy/DHP_Publications/pub_uploads/dhpPublication_618A2D24-5056-9D20-3D475D756ACE11FB.pdf

⁴ Maryland Chartbook of Minority Health and Disparities Data http://dhmh.maryland.gov/mhhd/Documents/Maryland%20Chartbook%20of%20Minority%20Health%20and%20Minority%20Health%20Data,%20Third%20Edition%20(December%202012).pdf

innovative hospital-community partnerships taking place in the State, discuss lessons learned from these programs, and begin a dialogue about how these programs could be sustained and replicated. The lessons learned from these forums were summarized in the white paper released in January 2015, "Sustaining Community Hospital Partnerships to Improve Population Health."⁵

Building on these forums and several work groups convened by HSCRC, eight regional Health System Transformation Planning Grants funded by HSCRC are in process and planning deliverables are due on December 7, 2015. The HSCRC also has issued an RFP for Transformation Implementation Grants that makes available up to \$40 million for hospitals, which are expected to be awarded in early CY 2016. Those grants are targeted at well-planned initiatives that can have immediate and significant impact on reducing potentially avoidable utilization, achieving return on investment, and providing direct savings to payers and purchasers of care. The CHRC's Call for Proposals will look to build on the work being done in these grants and other innovative projects that are underway without duplicating funding opportunities that are now available to hospitals from HSCRC. For more information about the All-Payer Model or the implementation of the Health System Transformation Grants, please visit the HSCRC website⁶ or consult sources included as additional materials for the FY 2016 Call for Proposals. Projects that help prevent avoidable hospital utilization by building the capacity to deliver and access services in the community, promote community-hospital partnerships, and present specific data metrics and concrete outcome goals will receive special consideration this year. Proposals involving hospital-community partnerships should provide a clear delineation of how CHRC grant funds will be utilized and how the expenditure of CHRC grant funds does not duplicate funding provided to hospitals by the HSCRC.

The strategic priorities of expanding access, promoting health equity, and reducing avoidable hospital utilization will apply to grant proposals in each of the four categories. Applicants should be very specific in how their proposals align with one or more of these strategic priorities. In addition to these priorities, the CHRC will support projects that offer a sound sustainability plan to continue the program after initial CHRC grant funding has been expended. Sustainability plans could include the strong feasibility to bill for services and/or letters of commitment to continue the program from other entities such as hospital partners or private/non-profit foundations. Applicants are encouraged to consult the CHRC's January 2015⁵ white paper for concepts to achieving mid- to long-term program sustainability. The CHRC will also provide added emphasis for applications this year that present detailed evaluation plans and demonstrate the capacity of the applicant organization to produce well-defined, quantifiable outcomes. Successful applications will include specific data metrics and clear, quantifiable outcome goals. Further information about the selection criteria for this Call for Proposals can be found later in this document, pages 10 through 12.

As in previous Calls for Proposals, the Commission will support both one-year and multi-year grant programs. The CHRC will also consider requests to continue current CHRC-funded projects, on a case-by-case basis, based on performance and the outcomes associated with these

⁵ Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA. "Sustaining Community Hospital Partnerships to Improve Population Health." Annapolis, MD 2015. Available from: http://dhmh.maryland.gov/mchrc/SitePages/hospital community partnerships.aspx

⁶ http://www.hscrc.state.md.us/

projects. Following are the four focus areas that the CHRC will be looking to support in the FY 2016 Call for Proposals:

1. Promoting comprehensive women's health services and reducing infant mortality rates (Potential award funding available in year one in this category is \$100,000 - \$200,000). The Commission has included supporting comprehensive women's health services in its last four Calls for Proposals in recognition of the state's goal of reducing infant mortality rates. The CHRC has awarded 16 grants totaling \$3.3 million, and these programs have collectively served more than 12,300 individuals. DHMH has articulated the current goal of reducing the state's infant mortality rate by 10% by 2017. Projects funded in the past have included a multi-disciplinary plan to integrate behavioral health and social services for substance using women and expectant mothers, the expansion of family planning centers providing Title X and prenatal services in areas of high need, and the addition of care coordination services to existing women's health providers. Proposals for CHRC funding this year could include interventions designed to improve outcomes before pregnancy (such as promoting access to comprehensive women's health services to ensure that women are healthier at the time of conception), during pregnancy (to ensure earlier entry into risk-appropriate prenatal care and case management programs), and after delivery (to ensure comprehensive, high-quality follow up care for mother and infant).

(2) Expanding access to dental care (Potential award funding available in year one in this category is \$100,000-\$200,000).

The CHRC has targeted efforts to increase access to dental services in the community, making significant investments in the state's public oral health infrastructure. Partnering with the state's Office of Oral Health, the Commission has awarded 27 grants totaling \$5.8 million. These programs have collectively provided dental services to more than 45,500 individuals, most of whom are low-income children. Though Maryland has made enormous strides in recent years, the Office of Oral Health advises that rural areas, especially on the Eastern Shore, face continued oral health care access challenges. All proposals under this category must include strategies for addressing the unique oral health care needs of local populations. Projects may be for new services or the expansion of existing services that are effective in meeting the oral health needs of children and/or adults in the community. Proposals must demonstrate efficiency in service delivery and innovation to address barriers to accessing oral health services, including screening for and facilitating enrollment into Medicaid. All projects must have the capacity to determine client eligibility for financial assistance to programs such as Medicaid, assure that children are enrolled in these programs, and bill Medicaid and other third party payers whenever possible for services provided under a CHRC grant-funded program.

3. Integrating behavioral health service delivery in the community (*Potential award funding available in year one in this category is* \$300,000-\$400,000).

The CHRC has supported programs to expand access to mental health and substance use treatment services and integrate the delivery of these services in a primary care setting. Over the last several years, the Commission has awarded 25 grants totaling \$8 million. These programs have collectively served more than 17,000 individuals. The Commission has funded several re-entry projects in which local health departments and local detention centers have collaborated to provide wrap-around services for offenders who experience behavioral health disorders and addictions. Projects funded by CHRC have also included emergency services for adolescents

and young adults living with dual disorders; adding primary care services in a traditional outpatient mental health setting; and the co-location of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and treatment service delivery in the community. Particular emphasis will be given to supporting the recommendations of the Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force chaired by Lt. Governor Rutherford (interim report was issued in August 2015;⁷ final report is expected in December 2015), and the July 2015 report of the Baltimore City's Mayor's Heroin Treatment and Prevention Task Force.⁸

Potential projects in this category could include (but are not limited to): efforts that are designed to expand access to Naloxone (grants could cover the costs of training on overdose education and the actual medicine) in settings such as mental health programs where opioid users are not engaged regarding their opioid use; promoting the use of peer-recovery support specialists; the implementation of SBIRT in community settings; the implementation of mobile crisis teams; and promoting access to recovery housing (grant could cover voucher costs for low-income individuals).

4. Expanding access to primary and preventative care services and chronic disease management (*Potential award funding available in year one in this category is \$400,000-\$500,000*).

Increasing access to affordable and accessible primary care services is a bedrock goal of the Commission. The CHRC has awarded 33 grants totaling \$9.8 million in recent years, and these programs have expanded primary care access for more than 57,600 Marylanders. Several grants recently awarded by the CHRC have targeted super-utilizers and have involved hospital ED diversion efforts and care coordination for these individuals. More newly insured individuals will access primary care services in higher volumes, and other individuals will remain uninsured and underinsured. It is critical that the state continue to build the capacity to deliver primary care services in the community for these newly insured as well as un/underinsured individuals. Many of these same individuals also have underutilized essential preventative care services. DHMH has advised that the state is not meeting its goals for immunization, though immunizations are among some of the most potent tools to promote population health. Immunization programs are complex and require multiple stakeholders including private providers, local health departments, Federal and State partners, pharmacies, schools, FQHCs, and many community alliances. In addition, DHMH has advised that chronic diseases, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and obesity are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States and Maryland, accounting for 7 of every 10 deaths. Medical costs for people with chronic diseases account for 86% of the nation's \$2.9 trillion medical costs, and in 2012, the direct and indirect costs for diabetes were \$245 billion a year. Medical expenses for people with diabetes are more than two times higher than for people without diabetes.

Projects in this category could include (but are not limited to): expansion of the delivery of primary care services; multi-sector, public-private partnerships to increase immunizations; and evidenced-based interventions that address chronic diseases, such as the Million Hearts program, the Diabetes Prevention Program, and the Chronic Disease Self-Management Training Program.

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⁷ http://governor.maryland.gov/ltgovernor/home/heroin-and-opioid-emergency-task-force/interim-report/

⁸ http://health.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Task%20force%20report_071015_Full.pdf

⁹ http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/overview/index.htm

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants may submit proposals for projects in any one of the four funding categories described above. There is no limit on the number of proposals that an applicant may submit, though the applicant submitting multiple proposals must clarify how the proposals represent wholly different projects. The Commission will use all of the following criteria to assess, prioritize, and select proposals for funding:

- 1. For all four categories of project funding, addressing strategic priorities is crucial. The strategic priorities must be clearly identified and addressed in the application.
 - *1a. Building capacity and supporting implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)*: The application supports Maryland's ongoing implementation of the ACA by increasing current capacity and expanding new access points, promoting continuity of care efforts, and/or ensuring that newly insured Marylanders have access to affordable, high-quality health care. Programs that increase capacity to deliver direct services, promote the long-term financial stability of safety net providers, and encourage quality improvement/assurance and use of data analytics will be favorably reviewed. The CHRC will also consider proposals that focus on engaging underserved, "hard-to-reach" populations and facilitating access to existing, affordable, high-quality health care services in the community.
 - 1b. Addresses Health Disparities: The application demonstrates knowledge of racial and ethnic health disparities among its proposed target population. The application clearly describes the specific disparity(ies) that are targeted and presents an effective and sustainable plan to mitigate these disparities and improve health outcomes. The application demonstrates an understanding of the SDOH affecting the target population. The plan includes efforts to increase workforce diversity and includes participation by community health workers or patient navigators. The application indicates prior participation in, or plans to participate in, cultural competency training for staff.
 - *1c.* Reducing avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions: Applications that promote results/outcome-based partnerships among community and hospital partners; promote care coordination and continuity of care; and yield measurable health improvements in terms of patient/community health and reductions in avoidable admissions and readmissions will be prioritized in this Call for Proposals. For examples of the types of projects that the CHRC has funded in prior years, please visit the hospital-community partnership page on the CHRC's website. Potential types of projects this year could include partnerships among hospitals and community-based partners such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, health departments, and others that target at-risk populations and super-utilizers, implement care coordination, establish a primary care medical home for these individuals, and address other social/health service needs of the target population. The application should be very detailed and specific in identifying the target population and how the proposed intervention strategies will, in fact, achieve reductions in avoidable ED visits, admissions and readmissions. Proposals that include a letter of support/commitment from a hospital partner, detailing the

¹⁰ http://dhmh.maryland.gov/mchrc/SitePages/hospital_community_partnerships.aspx

- contribution or role of the hospital in supporting or implementing the program, will be favorably reviewed.
- 2. *Community need:* The application demonstrates a deep understanding of the community to be served and that the needs of the community exceed the existing health resources available (or accessible) to the target population. The target population is clearly identified and quantified, and the needs of this population are adequately documented through quantitative data such as demographics, poverty levels, education levels, rates of insurance coverage, and service utilization statistics. Data utilized to illustrate the needs of the identified population should be drawn from a reliable and known data source such as the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP), HSCRC, CRISP, individual hospital data, or the Maryland Health Equity data from the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.
- 3. Project Impact and Prospects for Success: The application demonstrates that the project will lead to improved access to care for the target population, will build capacity to deliver services to lead to improved health outcomes, improved patient experience, and/or more efficient use of hospital resources. The project has potential for expansion or replication within the community, in neighboring areas, or more broadly across the state. The goals and objectives of the project are clear, measurable, and achievable. The proposed project has a high likelihood of achieving its overall goal(s). The project incorporates the best available evidence-based interventions and actions that will address the priorities outlined in the proposal. In the absence of evidence-based intervention strategies, the CHRC will also consider alternative strategies from the proposal if there is a compelling case for logical and closely monitored innovation. The proposal includes a logic model attachment which summarizes the project and links intervention strategies with expected outcomes. The work plan and budget are congruent and reasonable. The project team possesses the skills, competencies, commitment, and sufficient capacity to carry out the proposed work and has a supportive, organizational, and community environment. Applicants are encouraged to cite specific data sets and sources that will be utilized to document program impact.
- 4. *Program monitoring, evaluation, and capacity to collect/report data*: The application demonstrates the capacity to measure and report progress in achieving goals and objectives of the project through qualitative and quantitative measures. Evaluation plans should be clear and consistent with the inputs, activities, and outcomes outlined in the program's logic model. The application should clearly specify the metrics that will be used to define success. The application should specify how and from which sources data will be collected and reported to the CHRC, which analysis tools will be used for quantitative and qualitative evaluation, and what data source(s) will be utilized to document overall program impact. Where relevant, applications should document the use of an EMR system, use of the ENS system in CRISP, data-sharing agreements with hospitals, or other applicable data tools and resources. The project team must also have the ability to comply with the evaluation and monitoring requirements of this grant program. Applicants are encouraged to include the projected costs of IT and data collection in their line item budget and narrative and include the expected costs for evaluation in the overall grant budget request.
- 5. *Sustainability/matching funds:* The application demonstrates that the proposed project is likely to continue to provide benefits to the target population and the community at large

beyond the duration of the proposed grant. Proposals should identify likely sources of future revenue and describe efforts to achieve long-term program/financial sustainability. Will future project funds come from a fee-for-service model or will the project require outside funding from hospitals, outside organizations, or grant funding? Applications that indicate matching fund commitments or leverage additional resources will be favorably reviewed. Letters of commitment that demonstrate financial support at the beginning, during, or after the project period are strongly encouraged, and those applications will be given added consideration. In-kind support will be viewed favorably, but not as favorably as matching support provided by additional external partners, such as hospital partners or private/non-profit foundations.

- 6. *Participation of stakeholders and partners:* The application lists as key participants relevant stakeholders and partners from the community and appropriate agencies and organizations. These collaborators will be actively engaged as demonstrated by participation in the planning and implementation process, dedicating staff or other resources to the project, contributions of facilities and equipment, and/or the provision of free or discounted health care services. Letters of commitment from collaborators are required, should be included in the Appendix section of the proposal, and must clearly state what they will contribute to the project and/or how they will participate in the project.
- 7. *Organizational commitment and financial viability:* The applicant organization is committed to improving access to care for the target population and can demonstrate that the proposed project will significantly contribute to this goal. In addition, the applicant organization is in sound financial standing, has adequate financial management systems, is capable of managing grant funds, and presents the strong likelihood of achieving the overall objective(s) of the grant proposal.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING

As a condition of receiving grant funds, grantees must agree to participate in an ongoing CHRC evaluation of the grants program. Grantees will be required to submit regular project progress and fiscal/expenditure reports as well as deliverables produced under the grant as a condition of payment of Commission grant funds. To facilitate project monitoring, grantees will be required to articulate and report clearly defined data metrics, quantifiable outcomes, and progress towards achieving the overall goals of the project. CHRC grantees will also be required to participate in ongoing grant monitoring and technical assistance provided by the Commission.

The project team may be asked to attend meetings, participate in site visits, and give reports on progress and accomplishments to the Commission, its staff and advisors, and other grantees. At the conclusion of the project, the grantee will be required to provide a written report on the project.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries and fringe benefits, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, project-related travel, conference calls and meetings, and office supplies and expenses. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the total grant funds requested. Grant funds

may also be expended for a limited amount of essential equipment and minor infrastructure improvements required by the project. Grantees may subcontract with other organizations as appropriate to accomplish the goals of the project. Grant funds may <u>not</u> be used for depreciation expenses, major equipment or new construction projects, to support clinical trials, or for lobbying or political activity. Grant funds may be used for those renovations necessary to carry out the proposed project.

If the services in an applicant's proposal will be delivered by a contractor agency and not directly by the applicant, the applicant may not take a fee for passing through the funds to the contractor agency.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants will begin by submitting a Letter of Intent and a copy of the most recent Financial Audit by **December 15, 2015** as described below. The Commission will review the materials and screen the applicants for eligibility to determine who will be invited to submit a full proposal as described below. Full grant applications will be due to the Commission on **January 11, 2016** by 12:00 p.m. (noon). A select number of well-reviewed applicants will be invited to present their proposals at the Commission's meeting in **mid-March 2016**. Grant awards will be made by the CHRC following these presentations and applicants will be notified following these presentations.

Step 1: Letter of Intent and Financial Audit

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent for the proposal to be considered. Letters of Intent must be received via email by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on December 15, 2015 to Edith Budd at edith.budd@maryland.gov by electronic copy delivery. In the subject line of the email, please state your organization's name and the Call for Proposals category area for your proposal. A hard copy of the Letter of Intent is not necessary.

The letter should <u>not</u> exceed four single-spaced pages in length. The Letter of Intent should include the following items:

- Name, location, and brief description of the applicant organization.
- The project's title.
- The amount of funds being requested and the project's estimated duration.
- Whether this is a new project or an expansion of existing services.
- The services the project will provide and the site(s) where the services will be delivered.
- A precise, clear description of the target population.
- A concise description of the population the organization serves and the project's target population with relevant data and information to support the need for the project.
- A one-page budget for the total project with major line items. Categories of personnel or types of professional contracts in the project should be listed.
- The budget should also include a time line for projected numbers of individuals served (at least twice a year for the duration of the project) and overall public health outcome data that will be positively impacted by the program. The application should also include overall project goals that will determine the efficacy of the program and how the organization will track and report this data to the Commission.

- A list of other organizations participating in the project and a brief statement of their role in or contribution to the project.
- A short description of how the project activities will be sustained when the grant funding ends.
- Name, title, address, telephone number, and e-mail for the organization's chief executive officer, the proposed project director, and a contact person for the project.
- If this is the first time your organization is applying for Commission funds, you must include with the Letter of Intent documentation that clearly demonstrates that your organization meets the definition of a "Community Health Resource." This documentation is <u>not</u> included in the four-page limit for the Letter of Intent. If your organization has received a grant from the Commission in the past, then your entity is a Community Health Resource.

Organizations must also submit an electronic version <u>and</u> one hard copy of the most recent financial audit of the organization. The audit is <u>not</u> included in the Letter of Intent's page limit, but should be submitted at the same time as the letter. Receipt of the Letter of Intent and financial audit are a condition for moving forward in the grant process.

Hard copies of the financial audit should be mailed or delivered by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on December 15, 2015 to:

Edith Budd Administrator Maryland Community Health Resources Commission 45 Calvert Street, Room 336 Annapolis, MD 21401

Step 2: Submission of Proposals

Applicants that are invited to submit a grant proposal should follow the application and proposal guidelines detailed below. **Grant proposals are due at the Commission's offices by 12:00 p.m.** (noon) **January 11, 2016** by email <u>and</u> hand delivery, U.S. Postal Service or private courier, to the address below.

Electronic versions of applications and proposals should be emailed to Edith Budd at edith.budd@maryland.gov. In the subject line of the email, please state your organization's name and the Call for Proposals category area of your proposal.

In addition to electronic proposal submission, the following must be received by noon on **January 11, 2016** to be considered a complete application package:

- (1) One original application, including original signed Transmittal Letter, original signed Grant Application Cover Sheet, original signed Contractual Obligations, Assurances, and Certifications, and original proposal, all bound together and labeled "original;" and
- (2) Ten bound copies of the application, including copies of the Transmittal Letter, Grant Application Cover Sheet, signed Contractual Obligations, Assurances, and Certifications, the proposal, and appendices.

The hard copy original and ten copies of all documents should be bound with binder clips, two-prong report fasteners, or spiral bound. If two-prong fasteners are used, cardboard or plastic covers and backs can be used. Do <u>not</u> use three ring binders.

Hard copies of the proposal should be mailed or hand delivered to:

Edith Budd Administrator Maryland Community Health Resources Commission 45 Calvert Street, Room 336 Annapolis, MD 21401

Applications must include the following items for full consideration:

- (1) **Transmittal letter:** This letter from the applicant organization's chief executive officer should specify the title of the proposal, the applicant organization, and the project director and state that the applicant organization understands that submission of a proposal constitutes acceptance of the terms of the grants program.
- (2) **Executive Summary:** A half-page overview of the purpose of your project summarizing the key points.
- (3) **Grant Application Cover Sheet:** The form should be completed and signed by the project director(s) and either the chief executive officer or the individual responsible for conducting the affairs of the applicant organization and legally authorized to execute contracts on behalf of the applicant organization.
- (4) Contractual Obligations, Assurances, and Certifications: The agreement should be completed and signed by either the chief executive officer or the individual responsible for conducting the affairs of the applicant organization and authorized to execute contracts on behalf of the applicant organization.
- (5) **Proposal:** See "Proposal Guidelines" below for detailed instructions.

Proposals should be well-written, clear, and concise. Proposals may not exceed 15 pages single-spaced on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper with one-inch margins and using 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. Tables and charts may use a 10-point font or larger. All pages of the proposal must be numbered. The budget and budget justification are included in the 15-page limit. The appendices specified in the guidelines below are excluded from the 15-page limit. The hard copy original and ten copies of all documents should be bound with binder clips, two-prong report fasteners, or spiral-bound. If two-prong fasteners are used, cardboard or plastic covers and backs can be used. Do not use three ring binders.

The proposal should be structured using these topic headings:

- Table of contents (not included in the 15-page limit)
- Project Summary
- Background and Justification

- Organizational Capacity
- Project Plan
- Partnerships
- Evaluation
- Sustainability
- Project Budget
- Appendices (not included in the 15-page limit)

The suggested content of each of these eight sections is discussed below. Provide as much detail as necessary. Appendices should be limited to only the material necessary to support the application. The Commission will request additional material if required.

(1) Project Summary

Provide a two-page summary of the proposal. The summary should clearly and concisely state:

- Applicant organization;
- Project funding category;
- Project title;
- Project duration;
- Succinct overview of project;
- Population to be served;
- Health disparity(ies) to be addressed;
- Funding amount requested, noting year one request and total request (for a multi-year program);
- Description of how CHRC funds will be specifically utilized. If grant funds will be used to hire health providers, indicate the provider type and percent FTE;
- Information on how the program will be sustained after program funds are utilized (i.e., will the program be able to bill third party payers?);
- Baseline numbers of the population to be served and expected number of people to be served by the project's end; and
- Expected improved outcomes for the target population.

(2) Background and Justification

- Describe the target population. Identify the population(s) to be served (i.e., estimated numbers, demographics, insurance coverage, income levels, other distinguishing characteristics) with baseline and total projected numbers of individuals to be served by the end of the project. Please provide a brief explanation of how the projected numbers of individuals to be served were calculated. Specify the service area(s) where your target population lives and/or where your program will serve. Service maps, data, and other statistics on the target population may be provided as an appendix.
- Document the needs of this population using qualitative and quantitative data.

 Generally, what are the health needs of the target population? What are the gaps in the healthcare delivery system? What are the specific barriers that the target population faces

in accessing health care services or services similar to your proposed project? Discuss the community conditions affecting the target population's health behaviors and outcomes. Statistics and data should be concisely presented.

- Describe the health disparities in the target population that the project will address. Discuss the specific health disparity(ies) the project is intended to address and how the project will address the disparity(ies).
- Describe any similar or complementary projects in the targeted community. Describe similar or complementary projects that are currently in place in the target area and discuss how the proposed project does not duplicate work already being done.
- Discuss the precedents for this project and the expected benefits. Is the project based on a prior model or approach? What is the evidence that the proposed model or approach will be successful? If the project is a new, original approach, articulate why this approach will likely meet the project's stated goals and objectives. If the project is successful, what visible, tangible, objectively verifiable results will be reported at the end of the grant? What longer term benefits are expected for the target population and the broader community?
- Show how the project addresses legislative priorities. Discuss the extent to which the project addresses the priorities for community health resources in the Community Health Care Access and Safety Net Act of 2005 [for more information, refer to the legislation (SB 775/HB627 2005)] or the discussion of legislative priorities in the FY 2016 Call for Proposals. The proposal may also discuss other public/population health and health care delivery initiatives such as the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) and All-Payer Hospital Model.

(3) Organizational Capacity

- Is the organization a community health resource? Provide documentation that the applicant organization qualifies as a community health resource pursuant to the Maryland Community Health Care Access and Safety Net Act of 2005 and related regulations. If the organization has applied previously to the Commission and has not been notified that it is not eligible, include a statement identifying under which section of the regulations the organization believes it qualifies as a community health resource.
- Describe the organization's mission, structure, governance, facilities and staffing. Describe the organization's mission, programs, and service area. Discuss the organizational strengths and challenges. Is the applicant a for-profit or not-for-profit organization? If applicable, attach as an appendix the organization's determination letter from the IRS indicating 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Describe the type of organization (e.g., federally qualified health center, free-standing clinic, clinic affiliated with a hospital or local health department, private primary care practice). Specify the governance structure. In an appendix, provide a list of the officers and board of directors or other governing body. Describe the current and proposed staffing and provide an

- organizational chart as an appendix. Describe the facilities owned and/or operated by the organization.
- Describe how the organization is financed. Specify revenue sources and the percentage of total funding. What is the annual budget? As appendices to the proposal, provide an overall organizational budget (projected revenues and expenses) for the current fiscal year, the most recent audited financial statements and accompanying management letter, and, if your organization files a Form 990, its most recent filing. If the organization has submitted audited financial statements and a Form 990 to the Commission that covers the organization's latest audited fiscal year, provide a statement listing which documents and their fiscal years that have been submitted. The Commission will request additional information if necessary.
- Describe the organization's history of working with the target population and with partnerships in this community. Discuss previous work in this community and with this target population.
- Discuss the organization's history with other/similar grants, including any prior CHRC funding. Discuss the organization's grant funding history. Discuss any notices of insufficient progress that your organization may have received and how issues were resolved.
- *Discuss project staffing*. Identify the project director and describe his/her level of responsibility within the applicant organization, qualifications to lead the project, and the role in carrying out the project. Identify other essential staff, their roles in the project, and their relevant qualifications. As an appendix, include résumés (**maximum three pages each**) for all key personnel. Describe any positions that the organization will need to hire new/additional staff to fill.
- **Does the organization publish an annual report?** If so, provide a copy as an appendix. If your organization has submitted the latest annual report for a previous grant round, please provide a statement that the report was submitted and which year it covers.

(4) Project Plan

- *Discuss the project's goals and objectives*. What are the project's goals and objectives? Use SMART objectives (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and includes a Timeframe). Include a Logic Model in the Appendix (For information on how to create a Logic Model, refer to the CDC template¹¹).
- Describe the major steps or actions in carrying out the project. List key actions or steps in the implementation of the project. Describe the process and timeframe for reaching these benchmarks. A sample project work plan worksheet is attached which can be used in preparing the project plan, and the completed work plan should be included in the appendix.
- *Describe the project deliverables.* What specific products/deliverables would be submitted to the Commission as evidence of completion of project milestones? How and

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¹¹ http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/state_programs/pdf/logic_models.pdf

- when will these deliverables be produced? What are the associated quantifiable outcome metrics associated with these deliverables and/overall goals of project?
- **Provide a timeline for accomplishing milestones and deliverables.** Provide a Gantt chart or other project timeline listing project tasks and the time period in which these tasks will be undertaken.

(5) Partnerships

- *Identify planned partners*. Name the community organization(s) that will play a defined role in the project. Identify the leadership of the partner organization.
- Discuss the ways the partners will contribute to the project. Clearly define the role of the partner(s) in the project. Include a description of the added capacity that they bring to the project. Include a letter of commitment in the appendix that includes the specific role that the partner organization agrees to play. Only organizations that have submitted a letter of commitment will be considered as partners in the project.
- *Discuss the management plan for the project.* Describe the processes and organizational structures that will be put into place to ensure that the partnership(s) are effective.

(6) Evaluation

- *Discuss how success will be measured*. Discuss the methodology that will be used for evaluating whether the project meets its stated goals and objectives. How will success be determined?
- Discuss what data will be collected and analyzed, including the data sources and planned analysis techniques. Identify the data to be collected and analyzed. Identify data sources and the methodology that will be used for analysis. Discuss the capacity of the organization to carry out the evaluation plan and collect and report data metrics and quantifiable outcomes.

(7) Sustainability

• Discuss how the project will be sustained after support ends. Discuss the process by which the project will work towards sustainability. Will support come from revenue/billing fee for service? Organizational support? Other grant funds? Will the project require ongoing outside support after the proposed grant ends? If so, describe the plans for securing ongoing funding or, if plans are not yet firm, the process to be employed to work towards sustainability. Are there opportunities for expanding or replicating this project within the community, in neighboring areas, or more broadly?

(8) Project Budget

 Applicant must provide an annual budget for each year of its project. The total budget amount must reflect the specific amount requested by the applicant for CHRC funding, which may or may not be the program's total actual cost. If the CHRC grant request is a portion of the overall cost of the program, clarify this (such as the % that the CHRC grant request is of the overall project cost), and indicate the sources of other funding.

- Applicants must use the Budget Form provided in the Appendix section of the Call for Proposals. The CHRC Budget Form must include the following line item areas:
 - a) Personnel: Include the percent effort (FTE), name, and title of the individual.
 - b) Personnel Fringe: The Commission advises that the fringe rate be calculated at no more than 25%. If the grantee requests more than 25%, the applicant will be required to provide a compelling rationale for exceeding this amount.
 - c) Equipment/Furniture: Small equipment and furniture costs.
 - d) Supplies
 - e) Travel/Mileage/Parking
 - *f)* Staff Trainings/Development
 - g) Contractual: Contracts for more than \$10,000 require specific approval of the Commission prior to being implemented.
 - h) Other Expenses: Other miscellaneous expenses or other program expenses that do not fit the other categories can be placed here. Detail each different expense in this area in the budget justification narrative.
 - i) Indirect Costs: Indirect costs may not exceed 10 percent of direct project costs.
- Applicants must include a line-item budget narrative detailing the purpose of each budget expenditure.

INOUIRIES

Conference Call for Applicants: The program office will host a conference call for interested applicants to provide information on the grants program and assistance with the application process. This conference call, on Wednesday, November 18 at 11:00 a.m., is optional. The conference call-in number is 1.866.247.6034, and the conference code is 4102607046.

Questions from Applicants: Applicants may also submit written questions about the grants program at any time. Please email questions to edith.budd@maryland.gov, and responses will be provided on a timely basis by CHRC staff.

Program Office: The program office for the grants program is located at the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. Staff members are:

Mark Luckner, Executive Director Moira Lawson, Senior Health Policy Advisor

E-mail: mark.luckner@maryland.gov moira.lawson@maryland.gov

Edith Budd, Administrator

E-mail: edith.budd@maryland.gov

Telephone: 410-260-6290

Fax: 410-626-0304

ABOUT THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Community Health Care Access and Safety Net Act of 2005 became law on May 10, 2005. The law authorized establishment of the 11-member Maryland Community Health Resources Commission to help communities in Maryland improve access to care for low-income families and under- and uninsured individuals. The current members of the Commission have been appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley or Governor Larry Hogan. In 2014, the Maryland General Assembly approved legislation that re-authorized the CHRC for another ten years, until June 2025.

2015 Commissioners

John A. Hurson, Chairman Nelson Sabatini, Vice Chairman Charlene M. Dukes, Ed.D. Maria Harris-Tildon William Jaquis, M.D. Sue Kullen Paula McLellan Barry Ronan Elizabeth Chung Maritha Gay

APPENDIX

Excerpt from: Community Health Care Access and Safety Net Act of 2005 - MD Community Health Resources Commission provisions, Annotated Code of Maryland, Health-General Article

Health General § 19-2201 (g)

In developing regulations under subsection (f) (1) of this section, the Commission shall:

- (1) Consider geographic balance; and
- (2) Give priority to community health resources that:
 - (i) In addition to normal business hours, have evening and weekend hours of operation;
 - (ii) Have partnered with a hospital to establish a reverse referral program at the hospital;
 - (iii) Reduce the use of the hospital emergency department for non-emergency services;
 - (iv) Assist patients in establishing a medical home with a community health resource;
 - (v) Coordinate and integrate the delivery of primary and specialty care services;
 - (vi) Promote the integration of mental and somatic health with federally qualified health centers or other somatic care providers;
 - (vii) Fund medication management or therapy services for uninsured individuals up to 200% of the federal poverty level who meet medical necessity criteria but who are ineligible for the public mental health system;
 - (viii) Provide a clinical home for individuals who access hospital emergency departments for mental health services, substance abuse services, or both; and
 - (ix) Support the implementation of evidence-based clinical practices.

Workplan Template						
	MARYLAND C	COMMUNITY H	IEALTH RESO	URCES COMM	IISSION	
Organization Name:						
Project Name:						
PROJECT PURPOSE: (1) GOAL						
Objective	Key Action Step	Expected Outcome	Data Evaluation and Measurement	Data Source and Baseline Measure	Person/Area Responsible	Timetable for Achieving Objective
Example: Reduce the # of BH related ED visits at Hospital X by 20%	Mobilize BH mobile crisis team to respond to emergency BH calls	Crisis team will be able to de-escalate BH related emergency situations and divert individuals who would have been hospitalized into appropriate BH care.	# of individuals referred to a BH specialist, # of ED visits to Hospital X for BH related conditions	Data on BH ED visits at Hospital X will be obtained from CRISP or individual hospital partner. 2014 CRISP data for BH ED visits to Hospital X will be used as baseline	J. Doe - Project Manager	12/31/2017
(2) GOAL	I	<u> </u>	I			
Objective	Key Action Step	Expected Outcome	Data Evaluation and Measurement	Data Source and Baseline Measure	Person/Area Responsible	Timetable for Achieving Objective
(3) GOAL						
Objective	Key Action Step	Expected Outcome	Data Evaluation and Measurement	Data Source and Baseline Measure	Person/Area Responsible	Timetable for Achieving Objective

Budget Form Template				
MARYLAND COMMU	NITY HEALI	TH RESOURCES	COMMISSION	I
				`
Organization Name:				
Project Name:				
		0/ 07 / 17		
Revenues	\$ Amount	% of Total Project Cost		
CHRC Grant Request				
Patient/Program Revenues/Income				
Organization Match				
Other Grant/Funding Support				
Total Project Cost				
Budget Request for CHRC Grant Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Line Item Total
Personnel Salary				
% FTE - Name, Title				
% FTE - Name, Title				
% FTE - Name, Title				
Personnel Subtotal				
Personnel Fringe (no more than 25%)				
Equipment/Furniture				
Supplies				
Travel/Mileage/Parking				
Staff Trainings/Development				
Contractual				
Other Expenses				
Indirect Costs (no more than 10% of direct costs)				
Totals				
Percent of Organization's Total Budget that this P	roject Budget Repro	esents		