



STATE OF MARYLAND

## Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21401

Wes Moore, Governor; Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor;  
Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, PhD, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

March 20, 2026

# FY 2026 Request for Applications Frequently Asked Questions

## General Information:

- Letters of Intent are mandatory, and the deadline is March 30 at 3:00 pm EDT. CHRC staff will review Letter of Intent submissions and notify applicants as soon as possible about whether they are eligible to submit a full proposal. CHRC staff may reach out to applicants with additional questions in order to determine eligibility.
- The funding provided is FY 2026 funds. Program implementation may occur during subsequent fiscal years.
- To satisfy the mandatory sliding fee scale requirement, applicants must provide either a copy of their sliding fee scale that complies with the requirements set forth under COMAR 10.45.05.05 or a statement on letterhead that services are provided free of charge, regardless of income, ability to pay, or insurance status. These policies must exist prior to the submission of the Letter of Intent and must be posted publicly.
- Refer to PowerPoint presentation and RFA (page 22) regarding the use of grant funds.

## Questions and Responses

1. Please clarify what information you are requesting to respond to "Estimate/range of total number service encounters," located in the Executive Summary. (page 28 of the RFA)? **Grantees are expected to project the number of service encounters you expect to have with individuals throughout the course of the grant.**
2. Are formerly funded MCHRC projects eligible to reapply for continued funding to further expand the project? **Yes. The CHRC prioritizes programs that can demonstrate post-grant sustainability. Former or current CHRC grantees may request additional funds to further expand or provide different types of services.**
3. It states that funding will support 6 types of programs. It lists behavioral health for adults. However, there is a tremendous need regarding children and adolescents. Will this be considered as well? **Applicants seeking funding for behavioral health programs should prioritize serving individuals aged 18 and above. However, programs will not be prohibited from serving individuals who are younger than 18 and otherwise eligible to receive the grantee's services (see page 16 of RFA).**
4. Is a transportation worker utilized to provide transportation to and from behavioral health services (for adults and children) acceptable? **If the applicant agency is eligible, transportation may be a**

permissible use of grant funds, particularly if the grant will result in more services being provided. See response above regarding the prioritization of behavioral health services for adults.

5. What do you recommend for organizations who support the application? Letters of support may be provided with the application. Also, see RFA page 19 regarding “Community Need and Stakeholder Participation.”
6. In the "Areas of Focus" it says to choose one area of focus. If our organization can perform activities for multiple areas of focus is that allowable? Applicants must submit a separate Letter of Intent/Application for each Area of Focus. We acknowledge that synergies may exist across these six areas; applicants should choose the one area that is the best fit for each proposal.
7. Please describe the expectations for financial sustainability. The CHRC values post-grant sustainability and is proud that approximately 75% of Commission programs have been sustained at least one year or more after the initial grant funding has been expended. See RFA page 21 regarding “Sustainability and Organizational Commitment.”
8. Is it mandatory to partner with a hospital or an FQHC? It is not mandatory to partner with an FQHC or a hospital unless you are applying specifically for the Hospital-Community Partnership Area of Focus.
9. Are there any restrictions on the use of funds, i.e. capital projects? CHRC funds cannot be used for capital projects. Please review the regulations guiding the Use of Grant Funds posted in the Resources section of the RFA [webpage](#).
10. Can Home Health Agencies and Residential Service Agencies participate in the RFA? Applicants are always encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent, please review the eligibility requirements and submit the required documents (including a sliding fee scale) that align with your type of entity. CHRC staff will contact an applicant if additional information is needed to certify eligibility as a community health resource.
11. Are letters or MOU from Licensed Independent Providers acceptable or it must be from Organizations? An MOU from a licensed clinical provider is acceptable if the provider meets the sliding fee scale requirements.
12. How does an organization connect with the ENOUGH collaboratives if they might offer enhanced or additive services to the communities? You may find information on the ENOUGH grantees by [clicking on this link](#).
13. Can you please clarify whether the anticipated grant award amounts of \$300,000-\$750,000 described in the RFA cover just one year of the grant or if those figures represent the total disbursed over the life of the grant (for example, \$100,000 each year for a three-year grant awarded a total of \$300,000)? Grant awards of \$300,000 - \$750,000 will cover the entire period of the grant (up to three years).

14. Can an applicant request less than \$300,000? Yes, there is no minimum grant amount.
15. Do we need to be a substance use facility in order to apply for the behavioral health service piece? If you are operating as an Outpatient Mental Health Center or a Substance Use Treatment Provider, you must submit a license. Applicants are responsible for assessing whether their organization requires licensure under State law and to produce evidence of such licensure with the application. The CHRC cannot provide applicants with legal counsel or advice regarding applicable licensure requirements.
16. As an agency we follow MDH's Sliding fee scale. We do not apply the sliding fee scale to underinsured or uninsured clients in Dental as we do not see those clients. We only see Medicaid clients. Would we still qualify to apply? Local Health Departments are eligible community health resources and should provide the MDH Sliding fee scale.
17. What if our organization provides services to priority populations, meaning high utilizers in Mental Health and those eligible for Medicaid, are we allowed to have a sliding scale schedule as we assist these individuals in obtaining uninsured ID or Medicaid? All applicants must have a qualifying sliding scale fee schedule in place or offer services at no cost in order to be eligible to apply for an award.
18. Do the budget narrative and/or budget template need to be submitted with the LOI? No, budget materials are due with your full proposal. However, you will need to include your total budget request as part of the LOI submission.
19. Is there a limit on number of applications that an organization can submit for this current funding period? There is no limit; applicants may submit more than one proposal if they are for different projects.
20. We are interested in implementing a Food as Medicine program for adults with uncontrolled diabetes. Is food an allowable purchase if it's for patients directly enrolled in the program? Yes, food is an eligible use of grant funds.
21. Are pediatric dental services eligible for funding? If your organization is eligible, you may apply for a pediatric dental program.
22. Can organizations that have a payment arrangement plan with the Comptroller or IRS on taxes apply for funding? The CHRC requires all applicants to demonstrate compliance with all applicable state registration, reporting, and standing requirements. Applicants who have a payment arrangement plan must disclose this information in their applications. Applicants determined to have elevated financial risk are eligible for grant funding but may be subject to smaller advance payments and/or a more frequent reporting schedule.

23. Do all applicants need to submit an MOU with their Letter of Intent? If an organization provides clinical services (primary care), they do not need to submit an MOU with their Letter of Intent.

**HERCS:** Also mentioned during the FAQ call: CHRC's Health Equity Resource Communities program. 5-year grants currently under implementation. Help us spread the word about [HERC programs in your communities!](#)