



Maryland Health Equity Resource Act Pathways to Health Equity Program October 26 and October 28, 2021

Mark Luckner, Executive Director

Maryland Community Health Resources Commission



Maryland Health Equity Resource Act



STATE OF MARYLAND
Community Health Resources Commission
45 Calvert Street, Room 336 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Larry Hogan, Governor – Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

Addressing health disparities, improving health outcomes, and reducing health care costs

Pathways for Health Equity Call for Proposals:
Laying the Foundation for the Health Equity Resource Community Initiative

October 12, 2021

- Pathways Call for Proposals released October 12.
- RFP was informed by Public Comments Period.
- Applications due December 7.

Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

Pathways to Health Equity Program

- Two-year grants to be issued by CHRC.
- Applicants should demonstrate self-sustainability as a HERC.
- Provides foundation and guidance to become a HERC.

Health Equity Resource Communities

- Five-year grants.
- Emphasizes longer term interventions that address SDOH:
 - Housing;
 - Transportation;
 - Employment;
 - Food Security.

HERC Advisory Committee

Eleven members, appointed by the Governor and Presiding Officers

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair,
Community Health Resources Commission and
Chair of the HERC Advisory Committee

Noel Brathwaite, PhD, MSPH, Director, Minority
Health and Health Disparities, Maryland
Department of Health

Alyssa L. Brown, JD, Director, Innovation,
Research, and Development, Office of Health
Care Financing, Maryland Department of Health

Rebecca A. Altman, RN and MBA, Vice President
and Chief Integration Officer, *LifeBridge* Health

Elizabeth L. Chung, Executive Director, Asian
American Center of Frederick

Michelle Spencer, MS, Associate Chair, Inclusion,
Diversity, Anti-Racism, and Equity, Department of
Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins
Bloomberg School of Public Health

Maura Dwyer, DrPH and MPH, Former Health
Enterprise Zone Manager

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, Community
Relations and Population Health Supervisor,
Mt. Laurel Medical Center

Mikayla A. Walker, MPH, Management
Consultant, ReefPoint Group

Jacqueline J. Bradley, MSN, MSS, CRNP,
Bradley Consulting, LLC

The Honorable John A. Hurson, Esq., former
Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources
Commission

Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals

Pathways applicants need to demonstrate how:

1. The program will address each of the following five policy objectives:
 - A. Reduce health disparities (see next slide);
 - B. Improve health outcomes;
 - C. Improve access to primary care;
 - D. Promote primary and secondary prevention services;
and
 - E. Reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and re-admissions.
2. Demonstrate how the proposed Pathways program could be “self-sustainable” as a Health Equity Resource Community.

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Definition of Health Disparity

“Health Disparity” means a particular type of health difference, such as a difference in rates of:

- Hypertension
- Asthma
- Substance Abuse
- Maternal and Infant Mortality
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Mental Health Disorders

“Applicants will have the flexibility to tailor their focus to address the identified needs of the proposed geographic area and target population.
(page 8, of the Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals)

Geographic Definition of HERC

Contiguous geographic area that:

1. Measurable and documented disparities and poor health outcomes;
2. Small enough to allow for incentives to have a significant impact on improving health outcomes & reducing health disparities including:
 - a. Racial
 - b. Ethnic
 - c. Geographic &
 - d. Disability related disparities
3. Has a minimum population of 5,000 residents

Pathways /HERC Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible to apply:

1. Nonprofit, community-based organization;
2. Nonprofit hospital;
3. An institution of higher education;
4. Federally Qualified Health Center; or
5. Local Government Agency (i.e., Local Health Department).

 The CHRC intends to use the HERC applicant eligibility requirements for the Pathways RFP

Partner, Partner, Partner!

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop coalitions to achieve the objectives of the Act.
- Community-based organizations and other community groups are encouraged to partner with an eligible entity as the lead applicant.
- Examples of entities that should be contacted: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs).

Key Dates

- **October 12** – CHRC released Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals.
- **October 14** – Statewide Virtual Meeting to brief stakeholders on aspects of the Pathways RFP.
- **October 19** – First “Frequently Asked Questions” Virtual meeting. FAQ document to be posted on CHRC website.
- **Oct/Nov** – Regional Forums to engage community (In-person and virtual).
- **December 7** – Applications Due to CHRC.
- **Early February 2022** – CHRC meeting to award Pathways grants.

Additional Information

Pathways Call for Proposals:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx>

Regional Forum Information:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/herc.aspx>

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