



Maryland Health Equity Resource Act Pathways to Health Equity Program October 14, 2021

Mark Luckner, Executive Director

Maryland Community Health Resources Commission



CHRC Background & Mission

- Created by Maryland General Assembly in 2005:
 1. Expand access to health care in **underserved communities**;
 2. Support projects that serve **low-income Marylanders**, regardless of insurance status; and
 3. Build capacity of **safety net providers**.

CHRC Statutory Responsibilities

Traditional grant-making activities
(HB 627 of 2005)

**Council on Advancement
of School-Based
Health Centers**
(HB 221 of 2017)

**Health Equity Resource
Communities**
(HB 643/SB 172 of 2021)

**Consortium on
Coordinated
Community Supports**
(HB 1300 of 2020)

CHRC Commissioners

Eleven Commissioners, appointed by the Governor

Edward J. Kasemeyer, CHRC Chair, Former Senator and Chair of the Maryland Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

J. Wayne Howard, CHRC Vice Chair, Former President and CEO, Choptank Community Health System, Inc.

Scott T. Gibson, Chief Strategy Officer, Melwood Horticultural Training Center, Inc.

Flor de Maria Giusti, LCSW-C, Social Worker, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Celeste James, Executive Director of Community Health and Benefit, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States

David Lehr, Chief Strategy Officer, Meritus Health

Karen-Ann Lichtenstein, Former President and CEO, The Coordinating Center

Carol Masden, LCSW-C, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Health Association

Sadiya Muqueeth, Dr.PH, Director of Community Health, National Programs, Trust for Public Lands

Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, PhD, Vice President, Community Health and Social Impact, CareFirst

Carol Ivy Simmons, PhD, Behavioral Health Operations Manager, Suburban Maryland, Kaiser Permanente



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.

MD Health Equity Resource Act

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) **See next slide.**
- **December 7** – Applications Due to CHRC.
- **Early February 2022** – CHRC meeting to award Pathways grants.

Upcoming Events



New Grant Funding Opportunity: Pathways to Health Equity

Online (Virtual) Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 2021
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93320884452?pwd=b2laTXlKQ2tySWdlL3BxUDJ6K1Y0dz09>
Meeting ID: 933 2088 4452 Passcode: 094125
Dial-in number: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 933 2088 4452 Passcode: 094125

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE? Anyone interested in reducing health disparities, promoting health equity, and improving the health and wellbeing of your community.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND? Information will be provided about the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act which offers new resources and grant funding to reduce health disparities and improve overall health.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED? Information about how to access this new grant funding will be provided by the Commission, including an overview of how to apply and who is eligible for this funding, information on available data sources and information about technical assistance opportunities for potential applicants.

I CAN'T MAKE IT ON OCTOBER 14, WILL YOU BE HOSTING OTHER EVENTS? Don't worry, we will be recording the meeting on October 14 and will also be hosting a series of in-person and online events throughout October and early November! Click [here](#) for more information.

ANYTHING ELSE? Join the meeting on October 14 from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM to learn more about this new opportunity. There's no need to register and no cost to join this meeting. The Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals will be released on October 12.

QUESTIONS? Call Jen Thayer at (410) 974-5033 or email jen.thayer@maryland.gov for more information. To add your name to the distribution list, click [here](#).

- **October 19 10:00 AM –** Frequently Asked Question (Virtual).
- **October 21 4:30 PM –** Western MD Event at Meritus (In-Person).
- **October 26 10:00 AM –** Western MD Follow-up (Virtual).
- **October 26 4:30 PM –** Baltimore City Event at Coppin State (In-Person).
- **October 28 10:00 AM –** Baltimore City Follow-up (Virtual).



Lessons Learned from Prior Health Enterprise Zone Pilot

- Tackling health equity cannot be done on the cheap.
- Need to identify quantifiable goals and data metrics early in the program.
- It's never too early to plan for post-grant sustainability.

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>

Contact:

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Jen Thayer, CHRC Administrator

jen.thayer@maryland.gov