

Larry Hogan, Governor  $\cdot$  Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  $\cdot$  Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary July 5, 2022

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## Community Health Resources Commission issues grants to serve vulnerable residents and promote health equity

Awards will address health disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic

**Annapolis, MD** – The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) voted to approve a total of 17 grants totaling \$7.2 million to support innovative, replicable, and sustainable projects across the state that will serve vulnerable populations and promote health equity. These programs are projected to serve more than 6,600 residents throughout the state of Maryland.

The grants awarded in FY 2022 by the CHRC support three types of projects: (1) addressing chronic disease prevention and disease management, including diabetes and its comorbidities, hypertension, heart disease and others; (2) promoting behavioral health and the ongoing impact of the opioid crisis; and (3) promoting maternal and child health services.

"The Commission congratulates these 17 applicants for developing these important programs," said Ed Kasemeyer, CHRC Chair. "These grants will make needed investments in underserved communities in our state." Since its inception in 2005, the CHRC has awarded 665 grants totaling \$119.1 million, supporting projects in every jurisdiction of the state. These projects have collectively served more than 517,000 Marylanders.

"I appreciate the Commission's focus on key state health priorities," said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "The Commission has been an invaluable partner in our state's ongoing efforts to address diabetes and the continuing impact of opioids."

The CHRC's FY 2022 RFP generated 48 applications requesting a total of \$27.7 million. For more information about the 17 grants awarded by the CHRC in this year's RFP, please visit the CHRC's website at: <u>https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/home.aspx</u>. The Commission will begin to prepare the next annual RFP (for FY 2023) later this fall. Additional details will be posted on the Commission's website at: <u>https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx</u>

In addition to its regular RFP, the CHRC is also implementing the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act. For more information about the health equity programs awarded under this program, click here: <u>https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/herc.aspx</u>.