



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

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

TO: The Hon. Bill Ferguson, President, Maryland State Senate
The Hon. Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

CC: The Hon. Guy Guzzone, Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
The Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Hon. Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair, House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: The Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Community Health Resources Commission

DATE: December 22, 2021

RE: Update: Maryland Health Equity Resource Act - Pathways to Health Equity Program

This briefing memo provides an update on the implementation of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act (Chapters 741 and 742 of 2021) and follows an update submitted on September 20, 2021. The Maryland Health Equity Resource Act (“Act”) provides significant new grant funding and state resources for local communities to address health disparities, improve health outcomes, expand access to primary care and prevention services, and help reduce health care costs. The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) is implementing this Act with the assistance of the Health Equity Resource Community (HERC) Advisory Committee, the Maryland Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD), and Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP).

Following a joint meeting of the CHRC and HERC Advisory Committee in August, a series of public meetings were held to solicit stakeholder input on a series of key questions. The public comments that were received informed the drafting of the Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals (RFP), which was released on October 12.

Following release of the Pathways RFP, the CHRC and the HERC Advisory Committee, hosted 14 in-person and virtual outreach forums across the State to inform local communities about the program and to provide opportunities to discuss local priorities. The in-person meetings were held in Baltimore City, Cambridge, Hagerstown, Landover, and Prince Frederick. In addition, the CHRC conducted a virtual Statewide kick-off meeting, and two “Frequently Asked Questions” virtual meetings for

interested Pathways applicants, and a virtual meeting with MHHD Minority Outreach & Technical Assistance (MOTA) program partners.

Under the language of the Act, the Pathways RFP provides approximately \$13 million to support two-year grants. Grant proposals were due December 13, and the CHRC is pleased to report that the Pathways RFP generated **40 applications**, requesting **\$42.3 million** in funding. Proposals were received from every region of the State, on behalf of rural, urban and suburban communities (see attached list).

Nineteen of these applications target prior Health Enterprise Zones (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, the Eastern Shore, Prince George's County and St. Mary's County). Of the 40 applications received, 17 applicants have not received a grant from the CHRC in the past.

The CHRC will be forming an Application Review Committee comprised of Advisory Committee members and CHRC Commissioners. Following this review, top-scoring applicants will be invited to present to the full CHRC Commission in early February and grant award decisions will be made by the CHRC following applicant presentations.

Following the CHRC's grant award decisions made in February, the CHRC will submit a second report to legislative leadership. Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Luckner, CHRC Executive Director (mark.luckner@maryland.gov / 410-299-2170).
