



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 of the State Senate
The Hon. Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the 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. Anne R. Kaiser, Chair, House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: *EJK* The Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission and Chair, Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee

DATE: September 20, 2021

RE: Update on implementation of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

The purpose of this memo is to update legislative leadership on the status of implementation of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), and to request a two-week extension of the deadline to submit the first legislative report to the General Assembly to December 15, 2021. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Implementation Update: The 11-member Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee held its first “kick-off” meeting on August 11, 2021 and formed three Subcommittees to guide implementation of the Act and promote public engagement. The three subcommittees have been regularly meeting following the meeting on August 11. The CHRC and HERC Advisory Committee have developed a set of key questions and initiated a public comment period to solicit feedback. These comments will inform the development of the “Pathways to Health Equity” Call for Proposals, which will be issued by the CHRC after our meeting on October 6.

Following the release of the Pathways Call for Proposals in October, the CHRC plans to host one statewide forum (virtual) and regional forums across the state to inform stakeholders about the Maryland Health Equity Act and make communities aware of this new funding opportunity. In our judgment, sufficient time needs to be provided to allow potential applicants to form coalitions and develop their proposals. For this reason, we plan to set the application deadline for the Pathways Call for Proposals on December 6, which would allow about two months for applicants to develop their proposals. After the applications are received in December, the CHRC will execute a thorough review period from December to mid-January. The CHRC plans to issue the grant awards in early February.

The timeline below lists the key activities and deadlines that we are planning:

October 7/8 CHRC issues Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals

October-November CHRC hosts regional forums

December 6 Application deadline to submit proposals to the CHRC

February 2022 CHRC issues grant awards under the Pathways Call for Proposals

Legislative Reports: We are aware the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act requires the CHRC to submit the first legislative report on the grants awarded under the Pathways Call for Proposals on December 1, 2021. We would respectfully request the following: (1) That the CHRC submit its first legislative update to the General Assembly on December 15 that summarizes the proposals that were received; and (2) the CHRC submit a second report to the General Assembly no later than February 11, 2022, after the Pathways grants are awarded.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to extend the dates for the legislative reports to be submitted to the General Assembly. I am happy to discuss this request and overall implementation of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act with you.
