



I. Purpose

To promote stable, affordable housing within the Richmond region, with a focus on efforts that integrate a racial and ethnic lens and community engagement.

II. Introduction

Richmond Memorial Health Foundation (RMHF) is explicitly committed to supporting and convening efforts that address the social, economic, and structural conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes for individuals and families. We apply this commitment by intentionally approaching our work with an emphasis on racial and ethnic equity, recognizing health disparities are closely linked to race and ethnicity. Additionally, RMHF recognizes the critical role the built environment¹ plays in an individual's overall health and well-being.

III. Background

Guiding this funding opportunity is the recognition that safe, accessible, and affordable housing is a key factor in determining [health equity](#) for individuals and families. This belief has been informed by internal and external learning opportunities, highlighting the significant relationship between health and housing.

One of those opportunities included [Invest Health RVA](#), an initiative awarded to the City of Richmond in 2016 to advance cross-sectoral partnerships that address housing and economic conditions contributing to poor health outcomes. The initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and facilitated by the Reinvestment Fund, supported 18-months of partner convening, community engagement, and data analysis to assess the state of economic and housing opportunities within the Richmond region. *Invest Health RVA* helped establish a new framework for addressing health equity in the built environment, notably through the development of the [Market Value Analysis \(MVA\)](#). The MVA is a nationally-recognized, residential-data mapping tool intended to assist investment decisions. The MVA for the Richmond region focused on the City of Richmond, Chesterfield County, and Henrico County and brought together stakeholders from each jurisdiction. The MVA remains a regional resource to guide investment and planning decisions, as well as an internal resource for RMHF as we continue building our strategy in the built environment.

In addition to *Invest Health RVA* and the MVA, RMHF Trustees commissioned the white paper, "[Connecting Health and Housing](#)," to complement the work of *Invest Health RVA*

¹ "Built Environment and Public Health Clearinghouse," Georgia Tech. 2018 Glossary.
<http://www.bephc.gatech.edu/glossary/built-environment>



by researching the history of housing policies nationwide and the implications of those policies on health conditions. This research analysis affirmed the Trustees' commitment to the critical importance of health equity and housing. One of those efforts includes [Connect Capital](#), a two-year grant initiative awarded to the Richmond region in June 2018 from the Center for Community Investment. This national effort, funded in large part through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, places Richmond in a cohort with five (5) other cities and regions from across the country working to “attract and deploy capital at scale to improve residents' health and increase their access to opportunity.” Connect Capital will convene partners across the Richmond region to accelerate housing opportunities for low-wealth families and individuals.

IV. **Strategic Focus**

In *Connecting Health and Housing*, the authors note “community health outcomes due to housing are difficult—if not impossible—to separate from issues of poverty, transportation, educational opportunity, economic stability, segregation, crime, and violence, among other social issues related to community health.”² As a result, RMHF anticipates that this funding opportunity will support diverse programs and strategies in the Richmond region that connect housing stability to improved health outcomes. We recognize approaches to this work will be complex, and welcome proposals that are both conventional and unconventional.

At the conclusion of this initial grant period, RMHF hopes to achieve the following outcomes:

- Identification of the barriers and gaps inhibiting housing stability for low-wealth, marginalized families and individuals in the Richmond region;
- Strategies and practices leading to systemic changes in health equity and housing stability;
- A network of practitioners addressing health equity through housing stability; and
- Resident and community informed narratives on the relationship between health equity and housing stability.

V. **Funding Opportunity**

Funding awards will support one-year efforts. Grants will range from **\$10,000-\$50,000**.

² “Connecting Health and Housing.” Bradley Corallo & Alyx McKinnon. June 2017



Funding awards may be used for: [policy development and advocacy](#), [community engagement and organizing](#), [collaboration and partnership development](#), **strategic planning, and [communications](#)**.

Funding awards may **not** be used for: capital constructions costs, real estate acquisition, indirect costs, and major equipment purchases.

VI. **Eligible Organizations**

The primary applicant organization must be a registered 501(c)(3) or government entity to receive funding from RMHF. Please review [RMHF's grant guidelines](#) prior to applying for this funding opportunity. This funding opportunity allows for a collaborative approach that includes community-based organizations.

Organizations must be located in and/or provide services in RMHF's funding area: Richmond City and the counties of Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, and Powhatan.

VII. **Criteria for Selection**

All grant proposals will be reviewed by an external review panel of experts within the field, none of whom reside in the RMHF service area. Reviewers will consider the organization's mission alignment and history, quality of the proposal, quality of proposed management, and appropriateness of the budget and grant request.

Competitive proposals will meet the following criteria:

- Explicitly identify the intersection of health and stable housing
- Advance racial and ethnic equity through housing and the built environment
- Prioritize community voice and engagement
- Demonstrate an understanding of system and policy level barriers to quality affordable housing

VIII. **Racial and Ethnic Equity**

RMHF is committed to supporting approaches that are responsive to the needs of and respectful of all community members, and that recognize and address the historic and current day inequities present in our region.

Pursuing racial and ethnic equity requires systems to change within and among organizations. Systems changes—as a way to address the root causes of health



inequities—necessitate ongoing and committed efforts by organizations and new ways of understanding and doing our work. For this reason, RMHF requires all grantees funded at or above the \$25,000 level to attend a racial equity training session offered by RMHF on either **June 26th** or **October 23rd**. All other grantees are welcome and encouraged to attend the racial equity training.

IX. Peer Learning

RMHF will periodically convene partners selected for this funding opportunity to support and promote collaboration and coordination across organizations and funded projects. RMHF will survey grantees once award decisions have been announced to assess frequency and duration of peer learning opportunities. The first scheduled gathering of grantees selected through this RFP will be held on **June 6, 2019**.

Non-Discrimination Statement

RMHF is committed to equal access and opportunity for all persons. Organizations applying for funding shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religious affiliation, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, medical condition, or veteran status either in their employment, or their service policies and practices.

Conflict of Interest

RMHF asks that all applicants disclose any relationships with RMHF (Trustees or staff) that may be, or appear to be, a conflict of interest. While such relationships do not necessarily preclude an organization from being awarded funding, we ask for full transparency of any relationship that may represent or appear to represent a conflict of interest.

Application and Selection Process Timeline

RFP Release	February 1, 2019
Application Deadline	March 15, 2019
Awards Announced	Mid-May, 2019
First Cohort Meeting	June 6, 2019
Equity Training Session	June 26 th or October 23 rd , 2109

Health & Racial Equity in
The Built Environment
Request for Proposal (RFP)
February 2019



Contact Information

Please submit questions regarding this funding opportunity in writing to:

Michael Smith

Managing Director for Community Investments and the Built Environment

msmith@rmhfoundation.org

For questions about the online submission process, please contact:

Lisa Bender

Grants Manager

lbender@rmhfoundation.org