



## RMHF FY 2020 Open Call for Proposals: Access to Oral Health Care Released November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **Introduction**

RMHF’s mission is explicit regarding our commitment to fostering an equitable and healthy Richmond Region. Underlying this commitment has been a priority of our Board of Trustees to advance [health equity](#) through equal access to quality health care. We define health equity to mean “everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy and well as possible. This requires engaging communities and partners to reduce health disparities by removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences.”

### **Background**

In 2016, the RMHF Trustees adopted a [Strategic Framework](#) affirming the Foundation’s commitment to access to health care: “RMHF has its roots in access to health care, and it will maintain its support for organizations that ensure the region’s uninsured and underinsured residents receive quality medical services, including preventive care.” The [FY 2020-2022 strategic framework](#) reflects the reaffirmation of our Trustees’ commitment to support the region’s health safety net organizations and priority areas of oral and behavioral health care. This updated strategic framework was adopted by the Trustees in September 2019.

RMHF recognizes that oral health affects individuals’ overall health and is linked to a number of chronic conditions including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and cancer, as well as emotional well-being.<sup>1</sup> The [2016 Virginia Oral Health Report Card](#) showed that a considerable number of adults in Virginia have no dental coverage, and there are significant oral health disparities among African Americans and Hispanic adults. Even with Virginia’s Medicaid expansion, the need to improve access to oral health care to reduce health disparities still exists, especially since there is no comprehensive Medicaid adult dental benefit.

### **Open Grant Opportunity**

In this grant cycle, RMHF invites proposals that are mission-aligned with RMHF and work towards reducing oral health disparities for socioeconomically disadvantaged,

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<sup>1</sup> Health Policy Institute, Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy, “Oral Health Care: Can access to services be improved?” <https://hpi.georgetown.edu/oralhealth/>

marginalized and/or vulnerable populations including people of color, new immigrants, older adults and people with disabilities.

RMHF will consider proposals that provide program delivery or projects that develop, enhance, expand and/or continue existing evidence-based practices, while applying a [cultural competency awareness](#) approach, and incorporate one or more of the following strategies:

- ❖ Develop/enhance partnerships and/or community engagement that seek to reduce oral health care disparities
- ❖ Focus on methods to address identified gaps and barriers to receiving oral health care services
- ❖ Focus on organizational capacity-building to improve program delivery that advances oral health equity
- ❖ Focus on policy and advocacy work to advance access to oral health care
- ❖ Increase oral health care outreach, awareness and education, and prevention

In response to the recommendations of both cohorts of our Equity + Health Fellows, we will significantly increase RMHF's investments to support policy and advocacy work. Within the Access to Health Care portfolio, we will commit at least 25 percent of our dollars targeting Oral Health to support policy and advocacy efforts.

### **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 & Eligibility Criteria prior to applying for this funding opportunity. Organizations must be located within, or provide services in RMHF's funding area: Richmond City and the counties of Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, and Powhatan. Organizations located or having program(s) outside this geographic area may be considered at the discretion of the Foundation.

### **Criteria for Selection**

All grant proposals will be reviewed by members of RMHF's Board of Trustees and staff. Reviewers will consider the (1) organization's alignment with RMHF's mission and values, (2) quality of the proposal, (3) organization's commitment to apply a racial and ethnic lens to address oral health disparities, and (4) appropriateness of the budget and grant request.

### **Grant Awards**

Grants will be two-year awards with a maximum amount of \$40,000 per year and awarded as general operating support if deemed appropriate.

## **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 systemic 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 work. For this reason, RMHF welcomes and strongly encourages all grantees to attend a racial equity training session funded by RMHF on a date(s) to be determined.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

RMHF is committed to equal access and opportunity for all persons. Organizations applying for funding are asked to affirm that they do 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**

<b>RFP Release</b>	November 6, 2019
<b>Application Deadline</b>	December 12, 2019
<b>Site Visits Conducted for Finalists</b>	Early 2020
<b>Awards Announced</b>	Beginning of March, 2020
<b>Equity Training Session</b>	TBD

## **Contact Information**

*Please submit questions regarding this funding opportunity and the online submission process to:*

Lisa Bender  
Grants Manager  
[lbender@rmhfoundation.org](mailto:lbender@rmhfoundation.org)