



I. Purpose

To advance [health equity](#) and build a health equity movement within the Richmond region through an emphasis on housing stability, economic opportunity, and healthy built environments.

II. Introduction

Richmond Memorial Health Foundation's (RMHF) [Strategic Framework](#) notes RMHF's commitment to support and convene 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 that 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 housing stability, economic opportunity, and healthy built environments are key factors 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.

Beginning in 2015, the Trustees and staff of RMHF embarked on a journey to deepen their understanding of the social determinants of health, in particular the intersection of health and stable housing. This journey led RMHF into opportunities such as [Invest Health](#), the commissioning of a research summary by Bradley Corallo and Alyx McKinnon titled, "[Connecting Health and Housing](#)," and serving as coordinator for [Connect Capital Richmond](#), a two-year initiative administered by the Center for Community Investment. These initiatives, coupled with the recommendations of the first and second classes of [Equity + Health Fellows](#), led to the unanimous adoption of the [FY2020-2022 RMHF Strategic Framework](#) by the Trustees of RMHF. By adopting this Framework, the Trustees reaffirmed

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



RMHF’s mission and values and affirmed RMHF’s aim to advance health equity and reduce health disparities, with an eye towards cultivating a health equity movement in our region.

IV. Strategic Focus & Anticipated Outcomes

Building a collective health equity movement, one that is rooted in the belief that community health is improved when economic opportunity exists for everyone, will be critical towards realizing RMHF’s mission of fostering an equitable and health Richmond region. This strategic focus will be implemented through a two-year grant program with an explicit emphasis on:

- **Anti-displacement housing strategies that recognize the connection between health and stable housing;**
- **Strategies that increase opportunities for neighborhood choice throughout the Richmond region; and**
- **Activities that build awareness around the intersection of health and extreme heat and humidity within in the built environment**

Through an emphasis on the three outcomes noted above, RMHF anticipates the following impacts at the conclusion of this grant period:

- Increased protections in housing accessibility and retention for individuals and families facing housing discrimination and the risk of eviction;
- Increased affordable housing options and transition supports for recipients of housing vouchers; and
- Increased awareness on the health impacts of extreme heat and humidity on communities of color.



V. Funding Opportunity

In response to the recommendations of both cohorts of Equity + Health Fellows, at least 50 percent of funding allocated in the Health Equity and Built Environment program will be dedicated to policy and advocacy efforts. Funding awards will support two-year grant proposals and individual awards will be capped at **\$75,000 per year**.

Other uses of funding may include:

- Storytelling, Narrative Change, and/or Media Strategies
- Coalition Building
- Community Organizing

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.

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. 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 stable affordable housing
- Demonstrate past efficacy to affect policy change
- History of successful collaboration with key partners to advance health equity

VIII. Racial and Ethnic Equity

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 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.



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.

Application and Selection Process Timeline

RFP Release	January 7 th , 2020
Application Deadline	March 3 rd , 2020
Awards Announced	June 1 st , 2020
First Cohort Meeting	June 30 th , 2020
Equity Training Session	TBD