



RMHF FY 2020 Open Call for Proposals: Increasing Access to Health Care through Capacity Building

Released January 2020

Introduction and Background

RMHF’s mission is explicit regarding its commitment to fostering an equitable and healthy Richmond region. Underlying this commitment has been a priority of the Board of Trustees to advance [health equity](#) through equal access to quality health care. RMHF defines 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.”

In 2016, RMHF Trustees adopted a [Strategic Framework](#) affirming its 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 the 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.

Capacity Building

The National Council of Nonprofits defines [capacity-building](#) as “whatever is needed to bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, so it may more effectively and efficiently advance its mission into the future. Capacity building is not a one-time effort to improve short-term effectiveness, but a continuous improvement strategy toward the creation of a sustainable and effective organization.”

In response to the recommendations of both cohorts of its Equity + Health Fellows, RMHF is committed to providing capacity-building funding to nonprofits to advance health equity.

Open Grant Opportunity

RMHF invites proposals that are mission-aligned with RMHF and are working towards improving access and quality of health care to underserved community members, and identify one or more organizational capacity needs in the following areas:*

- Financial sustainability
- Governance and board development
- Grant writing skills
- Internal operations and management
- Leadership development
- Learning and evaluation
- Policy and advocacy development
- Staff development
- Strategic planning
- Technology/software to improve services

*Other identified capacity-building needs will also be considered. Direct care services, and indirect or capital costs are not allowable.

Please note that priority will be given to grassroots organizations and organizations led by people of color.

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 and (4) appropriateness of the budget and grant request.

Grant Awards

Grants will be for one-year duration or less with a maximum amount of \$15,000 and will be awarded as general operating support if deemed appropriate. An organization may receive only one capacity-building grant award in the calendar year.

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

Request for proposals will be accepted on a quarterly basis through the 2020 calendar year. Unlike the previous Responsive Grant Opportunity funding, applications will be reviewed and approved by the RMHF Board of Trustees on specific dates and awards will be announced as noted in the timeline.

RFP Release Dates	Application Deadline	Site Visits Conducted for Finalists	Awards Announced	Equity Training Session
January 7, 2020	January 24, 2020	Weeks of January 27 & February 3, 2020	March 6, 2020	TBD
April 6, 2020	April 24, 2020	Weeks of April 27 & May 4, 2020	June 5, 2020	TBD
August 10, 2020	August 28, 2020	Weeks of August 31 & September 7, 2020	October 2, 2020	TBD
October 12, 2020	October 30, 2020	Weeks of November 2 & November 9, 2020	December 18, 2020	TBD

Please note that in the event that there are too many applications received in a quarter to accommodate all required site visits, the most recent submissions received will be moved to the next quarter and applicants will be promptly notified. These applications will be reviewed with the highest priority in the following quarter.

RMHF reserves the right to amend the dates listed in the timeline as necessary.

Contact Information

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

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