



RMHF FY 2020 Open Call for Proposals: Access to Behavioral Health Care 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.

Open Grant Opportunity

In this grant cycle, RMHF invites proposals that are mission-aligned with RMHF and work towards increasing access to quality behavioral health care by reducing behavioral health disparities for socioeconomically disadvantaged, marginalized and/or vulnerable populations including (but not limited to) people of color, children, LGBTQ individuals, older adults and immigrants. While social determinants of health such as housing, the built environment, or arts and culture are considered important factors related to behavioral health, they are outside the scope of this open call for proposals.

In response to the recommendations of both cohorts of RMHF’s Equity + Health Fellows, RMHF will commit at least 25 percent of its Behavioral Health Care funding to support policy and advocacy efforts.

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

- Applying [trauma-informed](#) and/or cultural competent evidence-based care
- Developing/enhancing partnerships and/or community engagement that seeks community/school youth participation to reduce behavioral health care disparities
- Focusing on advocacy and policy work to advance behavioral health equity and equal access to behavioral health care
- Focusing on projects/programs with identified goals to reduce behavioral health care disparities at the community level and/or internal organizational level
- Focusing on methods to address identified gaps and barriers to receiving behavioral health services
- Increasing behavioral health care outreach, awareness and education, and prevention

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 with an understanding of how discrimination, poverty and socioeconomic factors contribute to behavioral 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

RFP Release	January 7, 2020
Application Deadline	April 3, 2020
Zoom Site Visits Conducted for Finalists	Weeks of April 29th- May 13, 2020
Awards Announced	June 5, 2020
Awards Paid	July 2020
Equity Training Session	TBD

Contact Information

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

Lisa Bender
Grants Manager
lbender@rmhfoundation.org