



Grant-Making Policies

Metro Health Foundation’s priority is to support programs within the City of Detroit and the surrounding tricity area. Grants are based on three guiding principles:

- For primary, physical health care and health-related services;
- For under-funded projects rather than to augment otherwise worthy but funded projects;
- For projects and institutions that strive to do a lot with a little - endeavors that are struggling with underfunded situations.

The Foundation does not have a hard and fast rule regarding grants in full versus partial grants, seed money, or matching and challenge grants.

MHF will consider time-limited requests for operating costs from organizations. Such grants will be considered a bridge to other committed funding. The organization must have a sustainability plan with prospective funding sources in order to be considered.

The MHF philosophy is for grants which basically satisfy the grantees’ under-funded needs by means of a one-time grant. However, MHF will consider subsequent grant requests for the same project - depending on the trustees’ assessment and the grantees’ follow-through.

Generally, grants will not be made for more than \$50,000, except in special circumstances. Grants may support one- or multi-year projects. In addition:

- Brick and mortar grants are discouraged. However, MHF will consider requests for initiatives that will help an organization to build capacity, including requests for new equipment, facility renovations, technology, new health center access points, etc.
- No grants will be made to municipalities, other government entities, any governmental departments or government funds, except by specific Board action.
- MHF will not provide loans; support religious organizations; indulge in lobbying; or support organizations which discriminate because of age, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or sex.

Areas of Program Interest

In response to changes in access to primary physical health care resulting from health care reform, MHF funding priorities since 2013 include:

- Increasing the capacity of organizations providing primary physical health care to become medical homes for the newly insured;
- Supporting community-based organizations in providing outreach, education & enrollment for Medicaid and Marketplace health insurance.
- Supporting prior grantees and other community-based organizations as they develop programs and modify their current operations to reflect new opportunities resulting from health care reform;
- Funding activities to increase the number of medical professionals and paraprofessionals needed to meet the expected demand for primary physical health care; and
- Supporting public policy development that addresses the needs of vulnerable populations consistent with MHF’s mission.

Proposals which directly serve the healthcare needs of at-risk, urban groups are favored. New or demonstration projects are encouraged.

Collaborative efforts which combine the service resources and professional expertise of several organizations are the priority.

Proposal Review Process

All proposals are reviewed by MHF staff. Those consistent with the MHF mission and scope of interest are assigned to review teams composed of MHF Board Trustees.

Consensus recommendations from each review team are then considered by the full Board of Trustees which makes all final funding decisions.

Grant Application Procedures

Organizations seeking a grant from the Metro Health Foundation must be tax-exempt and not classified as a private foundation.

You are encouraged to evaluate your needs against the scope of interest outlined above.

All funding requests must be discussed with foundation staff prior to preparation and submission.

Foundation staff will determine if a grant request letter or full grant application should be used. Use of MHF’s specific grant request letter or grant applications is required.

If you feel that your particular program is within this framework, please contact:

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Deadlines for submitting grant applications are February 1 and July 1.