

## Community Health and Health Equity Funding Opportunity

### Overview

In 2014, The MGH General Executive Committee authorized the creation of the Executive Committee on Community Health (ECOCH), comparable to the Executive Committees on Research and Teaching (ECOR and ECOTE). The charge of ECOCH is to promote community health improvement and ensure health equity, leveraging all four components of the MGH mission: patient care, teaching, research, and community health. ECOCH's priorities are guided by MGH's triennial [community health needs assessments](#) prepared by the MGH Center for Community Health Improvement and MGH's [community health strategic plan](#). To improve health across populations and across the life-course, ECOCH focuses on the social and economic determinants of health.

ECOCH seeks to support MGH clinical departments in achieving their community health improvement goals by providing guidelines (see attached), technical assistance, and grant support. In 2016, five clinical department teams received ECOCH grant support. In 2017, three new grants, three renewals, and one no-cost extension were awarded. We are pleased to announce the availability of funds to support two or three additional grants to continue to foster clinical departments' creative efforts to improve community health and advance health equity.

### Description of funding

ECOCH will offer 2 to 3 grants of up to \$30,000 that may be used in a 1-year timeframe.

### Eligibility

- MGH staff or faculty may apply as individuals or teams with their departmental chief's support.
- Applicants must identify a staff or faculty member to lead the effort. If the lead is not a senior member of the department, then the proposal must identify who within the department's leadership will provide direct oversight to the proposed project.

### Selection criteria

- Proposed projects must enhance clinical departments' ability to address community health improvement and advance health equity, aligned with sections A-F of the attached guidelines.
- Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a good faith effort or plan to follow the "structural" section of the attached guidelines by having a departmental community health champion and/or a committee and a community health improvement strategic plan.
- Preference will also be given to proposals that demonstrate an inclusive planning process, ideally including multiple staff and, where relevant, members of the communities to be served.
- Proposals may not seek to supplant funds already supporting current efforts but could expand or add new components to existing efforts.

## How to apply

Proposals must include:

- Project description (single-spaced, 12-point font, one inch margins, total 5 pages exclusive of the proposed budget and chief letter)
  - Project members names and roles
  - Background and significance
  - Specific aims
  - Population(s) targeted for this project, including current needs and anticipated impact
  - Proposed efforts
  - Measurement and evaluation plan
  - Sustainability plan
  - Timeline and key milestones
  - IRB approval, if applicable
- Budget (up to \$30,000 in total costs, over 1 year)
- Departmental chief letter (may be more than 1 letter if more than 1 department is involved)
  - Stating their support and commitment to the proposed project
  - Describing the current departmental structure to support community health improvement and health equity. Has the Chief appointed a community health champion? Is there a community health committee? A community health strategic plan?
  - How this proposed activity will enhance or complement departmental capacity for community health.

**Please send complete applications electronically to Dr. Nicté I. Mejía at [nmejia@partners.org](mailto:nmejia@partners.org) by 5 p.m. on July 31.** A selection panel including ECOCH members will review proposals and notify recipients.

If awarded, grantees will be expected to:

- Provide semi-annual updates on progress and expenditures documenting impact of the effort, both within MGH and in the community.
- Share a description of the effort, including lessons learned, with others at MGH and in the community.
- Collaborate with ECOCH on how to leverage their experience for impact across MGH.
- Present to ECOCH.

## Key dates and deadlines:

| Activity          | Date(s)     |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Proposal released | June 1      |
| Applications due  | July 31     |
| Awards announced  | September 1 |
| Grants begins     | October 1   |