

Community Health Center Grant Program 2012

On September 22, 2011, MassDevelopment announced the Community Health Center Grant Program (CHCGP) for 2012 and invited all licensed community health centers in Massachusetts to apply. The program provides grants of up to \$25,000 to community health centers in Massachusetts for infrastructure projects, which may include construction, renovation, equipment, furniture, or technology-related projects (including training).

The CHCGP helps support the important services that health centers deliver to residents of the Commonwealth by providing funds for infrastructure projects. There is a maximum of \$25,000 per institution per calendar year. The selection process evaluates the viability of the project, the benefit to the target population, the need for the project, detailed and balanced budget, the level of impact of the project to that population, the creativity and innovation of the project, the leveraging and other sources of funds, and the sustainability of the project.

Three printed copies of the application must be received **by November 18, 2011** at the Boston office of MassDevelopment no later than 5:00 p.m. We anticipate completing the review process and making grants in January 2012 and look forward to receiving your application.

As stated in the announcement letters, applicants had until October 7, 2011 to submit questions to MassDevelopment. The following questions were submitted and are answered below.

Q: Do you have a list of the projects that were funded last year for the MassDevelopment grants?

A: The projects that were funded last year from MassDevelopment included:

Family HC of Worcester	digital radiology
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless	radiography eqpt. TB screening
Manet CHC	exam room furniture/equipment
Upham's Corner HC	pod. chair, fax, printers, servers
Roxbury Comprehensive CHC	text appointment reminder; PCs
Greater Roslindale Medical & Dental Ctr.	digital radiology (dental)
Lowell CHC	equipment/furnish expansion
Brockton Neighborhood HC	phone system upgrade
Stanley St. Treatment & Resources	IT to expand HER
CHC of Franklin County	dental and medical equipment
Health Services for the Homeless (SDHHS)	laptops, printers, MD bags

Q: Our scores for our 2010-2011 application were pretty low. Can you send us reviewer's comments, notes, or any other feedback from our previous proposal so that we can strengthen our proposal this year?

- A: To assist applicants in preparing applications for the 2012 grant round, MassDevelopment decided to provide each potential applicant with scores from the previous year. The purpose of providing these scores was to point to those sections of the application which in the current round need extra work. The reviewers enter numeric scores only, so unfortunately we have no other information to share. If all of your scores for the 2010-2011 of the application were low, that would indicate the need for strengthening all aspects of your proposal for 2012.
- Q: Can you send me the application and guidelines?
- A: The application which includes the guidelines was sent to each licensed Community Health Center in Massachusetts with the letter inviting an application for a grant. In addition to the letter, each licensed Community Health Center in Massachusetts was sent an email on September 28th with an electronic version of application attached. If you did not receive this email, send your email address to tingram@massdevelopment.com and an electronic version will be sent to you again by return email. The guidelines are included on page 2 of the application.
- Q: For the Community Health Center Grant Program, are we limited to one proposal per community health center?
- A: There is a maximum of \$25,000 per institution per calendar year. If you have more than one project but the sum of all is less than \$25,000, you may submit more than one application (one for each project).
- Q: We are implementing a new EHR system. Our staff is not fully trained in how to utilize this system, would a project in which we have a health systems network consultant contracted to work with our staff to resolve these problems be within the scope of your funding. Also, where does training fall in the priority list of funding?
- A: The program provides grants for infrastructure projects which may include technology-related projects (including training). As described, your project would be eligible. Training has the same priority as other purposes that are eligible for grants.
- Q: We are thinking of submitting an application to purchase equipment for one of the rooms in a new building we are constructing. For the budget, do we need to include the full budget for the building project or should the budget just include the equipment?
- A: Applications must be for just the costs for which a grant is sought. You should submit the budget for the equipment, not the whole building.