

Community Health Center Grant Program 2021

On November 4, 2020, MassDevelopment announced the Community Health Center Grant Program (CHCGP) for FY 2021 and invited all licensed community health centers in Massachusetts to apply. The program provides grants of up to \$50,000 to fund facility upgrades including construction, renovation, equipment, furniture, technology-related projects (including training) and other facility needs as they may be facing in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CHCGP is an opportunity to support the important services that health centers provide. The selection process evaluates the viability of the project, the benefit to the target population, the need for the project, detailed and achievable budget, the level of impact of the project to the population served, the creativity and innovation of the project, the leveraging of other sources of funds, and the sustainability of the project.

All applications must be received by December 18, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.

As stated in the announcement, applicants had until November 30, 2020 to submit questions to MassDevelopment. The following questions were submitted and are answered below.

Q. I have down that a report is due 11/30 on a previous award that we received. Do you want an interim report on what has been completed if we do not have the final project done or do you want one final report?

A. There is no due date for reporting. Once a project is complete, we just ask that an email be sent stating that the project has been completed and all funds have been used.

Q. I am not sure if we will have the final project completed and invoiced by December 18th. Does that preclude us from submitting an application for funding for FY21?

A. If you are unable to provide a final report by December 18th, unfortunately you are not eligible to submit an application for funding for FY21.

Q. I am writing to inquire as to whether MassDevelopment will allow two separate grant applications to be submitted for one organization at two different sites.

A. The funds available from the trust each year are limited and cannot reach all of the community health centers that apply. Limiting each health center to one grant application seems to us the best use of the limited resources.

Q. Can the grant be used for energy systems planning to upgrade energy systems for the distribution of the COVID Vaccine? Uses would include uninterruptable power/energy resiliency, backup power, refrigeration, etc.

Once the planning is done and the system cost is estimated, this would assist with then doing a municipal procurement for the recommended solutions.

A. While we would allow some direct planning costs to be funded as part of an overall project budget supporting facility upgrades, the entire grant amount may not be used exclusively for planning costs.

Q. Can the applicant be a municipality, or does the applicant need to be a non-profit corporation?

A. Municipalities are not eligible; the grants are for non-profit Massachusetts licensed community health centers.

Q. If we are awarded funding, would pre-award costs be eligible for reimbursement? Or are only costs incurred after the award date eligible?

A. No, awards are for reimbursement of costs incurred after the date of award.

Q. The project for which we would like to request funding is the build-out of a new pharmacy at our community health center. We currently do not have a pharmacy on site so this would be an expansion of the services we offer. It seems to meet the criteria, but just wanted to confirm.

A. Yes, you can request funding for a project that represents an expansion of services.

Q. The question I had about the application is where it asks for health center information, if I should provide the numbers for our entire organization or for just the location where we will be doing the project.

A. Please provide numbers for the location at which you will be doing the project for which funds are requested.

Q. When you ask for a detailed budget, what time frame will you be requesting to view? One year? Two years? However long we think the proposed project will take? Do you have a preferred or recommended budget template that applicants should use?

A: No, there is not a budget template. Please provide a detailed budget for the project for which you are seeking funding.

Q. When would the grant money need to be spent? We have a COVID-19 related project that would fall within a larger construction project, so timing parameters for spending the grant money could affect our ability to support that project through this grant opportunity.

A. There is not a timeline for funds to be spent. However, if a project cannot be completed in a year, you will not be eligible to apply for a grant in the next round.