



Frequently Asked Questions – Discretionary Grants Program

If you have additional questions or would like to further clarify any of the topics addressed below, please contact Program Officer Kathryn Rouillard.

Question: How would I know if my organization is in compliance with MeHAF’s nondiscrimination policy?

- Answer: Refer to MeHAF’s nondiscrimination policy below and confirm your organization’s policy includes all of the protected classes:
The Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF) shall be an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, ancestry, genetic information, whistleblower status, military/veteran status, an assertion of a right or claim under the Maine Workers’ Compensation Act or any other status protected by law: (i) in the persons served, or in the manner of service; or (ii) in the hiring, assignment, promotion, salary determination, or other conditions of staff employment; or (iii) in the membership of the Board of Trustees.

Question: Must projects engage more than one organization in a collaborative effort?

- Answer: No, but where collaboration is an appropriate and necessary project strategy, MeHAF will evaluate projects based on whether all critical stakeholders have been engaged in the work.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding policy research and analysis?

- Answer: Yes. MeHAF will consider funding policy research and analysis if it can be used to inform and shape public policy to expand access and improve health for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding purchases of equipment?

- Answer: Yes. MeHAF will consider funding purchases of minor equipment under limited circumstances if it can be used to immediately increase access and availability to needed services for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding curriculum development?

- Answer: MeHAF generally will not consider funding curriculum development. If a compelling project requires the adaptation or modification of an existing curriculum, we may consider making an exception.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding organizational strategic planning?

- Answer: Yes. MeHAF will consider funding organizational strategic planning, mergers/strategic alliances, or collaborative planning efforts when the desired goal is to improve services for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding staff salary support?

- Answer: MeHAF may consider funding staff salary support when costs are directly associated with executing the proposed project. MeHAF will not fund salary support for staff to fulfill their normal, ongoing job duties.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding staff training?

- Answer: MeHAF may consider funding staff time for training that is not a required or normal part of a staff member's job responsibilities. To be eligible for funding, the training would need to provide new knowledge or skills that increase the organization's capacity to expand access or improve health for groups or populations that face disproportionate barriers to accessing health services and achieving the best possible health.

Question: Will MeHAF consider funding part of a larger project that requires other funding sources?

- Answer: MeHAF will only consider funding part of a larger project if there is a discrete, stand-alone piece of the project that can be fully funded by our grant.

Question: Will MeHAF consider making a discretionary grant to support an ongoing program or service while an organization waits to secure a more sustainable funding source?

- Answer: No. Due to the limited scope and budget of the Discretionary Grants program, MeHAF is not able to provide this type of gap funding to support ongoing programs or services.

Question: What constitutes a pilot project?

- Answer: Characteristics of a pilot project include: a clear timeframe, a defined group of participants, a proposed method to assess impact, and a commitment to reflecting on lessons learned to inform future work.