



Healthy & Equitable Communities Memorandum of Agreement Information

PURPOSE:

The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health will provide funding to Alaskan local governments in support of creating and sustaining healthy and equitable communities around the state.

Funding will be available through June 30, 2024 to support the following activities and strategies to promote and build healthy and equitable communities around the state. All funded activities must have an emphasis on high risk, underserved population groups.

- Ensure a fair and adequate baseline of care is established for populations at higher risk that are underserved and who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 by expanding existing or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and services;
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to guide current and future pandemic response;
- Build, leverage or expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 or future pandemic prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk or underserved;
- Mobilize partners to build and promote healthy and equitable communities, improving everyone's opportunities for living a healthy life, particularly those who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19;
- Improve access to COVID-19 vaccine, as well as other necessary vaccines, for individuals who are higher risk or underserved.

SCOPE OF FUNDING:

Strategies that are implemented should aim to build infrastructures that both improve health outcomes for higher risk underserved Alaskans in the current COVID-19 pandemic and set the foundation for future responses. This application mentions several eligible activities, but communities are not limited in scope to these examples. There are several resources available for communities to assist them in determining what types of activities may be proposed. The [Alaska Health Equity Index](#) utilizes data from the US Census Bureau and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index and is an excellent reference to assist communities in identifying target populations* and areas of need. The Healthy Alaskans team has identified priority health topics for the [Healthy Alaskans 2030 plan](#) including strategies and actionable objectives within each strategy. Both resources highlight the needs of Alaskans, and communities are encouraged to develop plans that incorporate factors from either of these resources.

*Target populations can include but are not limited to:

- Low income or homeless individuals
- Individuals/families/communities with limited access to technology/internet
- Individuals/families/communities who face food insecurity
- Communities with limited to no transportation access

- Individuals without access to health care
- Populations that do not speak English as their first language
- Rural communities/areas where physical services are not accessible
- Refugee/immigrant communities that face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to accessing health care services
- Individuals with disabilities
- Older adults
- Children
- Individuals with mental health or substance-related disorders

Funding is calculated using two factors: population size, and the Alaska Health Equity Index.

ELIGIBILITY:

Local governments are eligible to apply and may propose plans to engage one or more communities and geographic areas. The definition of communities may also include a group of people who have particular characteristic in common (e.g. share similar cultural beliefs or interests). Please work with your local tribes, borough, or municipality to ensure efforts are coordinated. DHSS allows recipients to act as pass-through entities to provide funding to other recipients, including community-based organizations serving populations who may experience health inequities. **Technical assistance will be provided throughout the funding period to assist with reporting, advancing approved projects, pre-approval of activities and invoice processing.**

If you live in an unincorporated census area or census designated place, are aware of an entity or organization that is interested in implementing this work and unsure about how to access this funding opportunity, please contact or HEcommunities@alaska.gov or maria.caruso@alaska.gov to discuss potential alternative opportunities. Designated entities must have the capacity to manage funds and implement projects within the scope of the funding. If communities chose to pursue this route for funding, alternative entities must be identified by **October 22, 2021**. The state intends to open up an alternate method of procurement for these entities, and the timeline for funding will be dependent upon the number of non-governmental entities identified across the state for this option. We will make every attempt to accommodate alternative requests. **For entities that chose to pursue this option, please be aware that the funding can take significantly longer to award through alternate procurement methods.**

REPORTING:

Reporting requirements will be due at the same time as invoices. Payment will not be issued unless necessary reporting is attached. Reporting requirements will be determined during the MOA preparation and will be dependent upon the type of activities selected. Entities are encouraged to collaborate with hospitals, schools and community organizations to improve the outcomes for their population. **See attachment of Healthy and Equitable Communities Memorandum of Agreement fund amounts.**