



Healthy & Equitable Communities Team Cities & Boroughs MOAs 2nd Round Funding Announcement

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) announces \$9 million in funding to local governments through memorandums of agreement (MOAs) in support of creating healthy and equitable communities around the state. The funding will be available through May 31, 2024 to support activities of greatest need identified by the local community.

The goal of the funding is to create and support local coalitions to develop and implement sustainable plans to improve the overall health of the community by preventing and addressing COVID-19 among underserved Alaskans at higher risk for COVID-19 related illness and death, including rural populations. The pandemic has highlighted that many groups are prevented from having fair opportunities for economic, physical, and emotional health. For example:

- Communities with barriers to internet access may have difficulty accessing telehealth services or scheduling vaccination appointments;
- Housing conditions or access to wrap-around support can be barriers to isolation or quarantine to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- Limited transportation options make it difficult to easily access COVID-19 testing, vaccination, or other health care services;
- For those that do not speak English as their first language, medical services or accurate information that can assist in making healthy decisions may be difficult to access.

This MOA can be used for both immediate COVID-19 needs and to develop a community plan and build a local coalition to provide input for additional community projects. DHSS will provide funding through multiple avenues to support the implementation of this plan.

Alaska communities contain much of the insight necessary to assure optimal health for their residents. These funds will add capacity for communities to prevent illness and death from the current and future pandemics among their underserved residents and will be accompanied by assistance to develop and implement their plans. Communities can, for example, support information sources that don't rely on internet access, provide support for people in isolation and quarantine, support transportation to access testing and vaccination services, and provide services using language people understand. Applications for funding will be available on the Alaska Public Notice website. (AML will send notice when the applications are posted, and relevant due dates.)

Quarterly reporting will be required of all projects to include an invoice and a brief narrative of progress. Any projects that will be collecting data may have additional reporting requirements. Initial information about the project will be needed, including:

- Who is collecting data?
- Why is data being collected?
- What communities/populations are being researched?
- What type of data is being collected?
- Estimated timeframe of data collection
- How will this data be used?

Funds must go towards creating community plans, supporting and facilitating local coalitions, or activities that fall into one of the categories listed:

- Improve COVID-19 health outcomes among higher risk underserved populations by expanding existing or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and services;
Examples: support hospital or clinic vaccination and testing efforts; provide COVID-19 mitigation supplies to underserved groups; provide translation for COVID-19 messages
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to guide current and future pandemic response;
Examples: support hospitals and clinics with data collection support; purchase new lab equipment to facilitate data collection and reporting
- Build, leverage or expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 or future pandemic prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk or underserved;
Examples: improve communication system for EMS and 911 calls (new antenna and cable); improve internet and communication capabilities at community center to support telehealth and make it more accessible;
- Mobilize partners to improve spaces in their community where people live, learn, work, and play, allowing individuals and families greater opportunities for better health outcomes;
Examples: improved recreational opportunities; support local subsistence practices by providing gas vouchers to residents; support community education and action regarding substance misuse and suicide prevention; facilitate health improvements for homeless shelters; provide opportunities for isolation and facilitate medical treatment for homeless people infected with COVID-19;
- Improve access to COVID-19 and other vaccines, for individuals who are higher risk or underserved.
Examples: Equip an outreach van to improve access to vaccines and testing; fund a mobile care clinic; provide outreach to home-bound individuals

The funding allocations for this opportunity considers both population size and local or regional factors that affect health outcomes, such as housing, household composition and disability status, transportation, and several other factors.

The Alaska Municipal League will host a member call via zoom to review this information and answer questions on March 28, at 10:00.

The application will be posted on the Alaska Public Notice. As of this DRAFT notice, due dates and related information is not available.

Award amounts are attached to this announcement. For more information, please contact HECommunities@alaska.gov or Judy Holland at Judy.Holland@alaska.gov.