



Community-Driven C-19 Response Funding

Supported by the State of Alaska and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

c19grant@healthymatsu.org 907.373.2827

Please contact us before applying!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the Community-Driven C-19 Response Funding?

The purpose of the funding is to implement community-driven strategies that support COVID-19 prevention and recovery activities in the Mat-Su Borough. The Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) is executing a grant from the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) that is redistributing federal funding to assist Mat-Su Borough communities in building capacity and access to care. There are three strategic areas:

- COVID-19 Testing - Activities that will improve efforts and increase access to COVID-19 testing in the community.
- COVID-19 Vaccinations – Activities that will build capacity and increase access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Health Equities – Activities that will decrease health inequities highlighted by COVID-19; as well as other COVID-19 related prevention and recovery strategies.

2. What is this grant funding?

The funding is from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant that the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services oversees. By request of the Mat-Su Borough and the Cities of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston, this grant is being executed by the Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF). The funding from the DHSS to the MSHF was based on a population formula. It does not include any funds from the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

3. How long will the funding be available?

The funding is available now and will end on June 30, 2023.

4. Can expenses be reimbursed?

Upon approval, grants and contracts awarded under this program can be retroactive to May 1, 2021.

5. How much is available?

The total amount of the funding is approximately \$5.1 million. The amounts available for grants and contracts for eligible entities will be based on availability of funds, demand, alignment with funding priorities, ongoing and changing needs of the pandemic recovery/prevention work, size of organization and the items requested. We encourage interested entities to apply early.

6. What is health equity?

According to the CDC, health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain one’s full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.” Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.

7. What are vulnerable populations?

Vulnerable groups include the economically disadvantaged, racial, and ethnic minorities, residents with disabilities, the uninsured, children in low-income households, the elderly, the homeless, those with other chronic health conditions including behavioral health, and rural residents who encounter barriers to accessing healthcare. Vulnerability also includes those with medical conditions identified to be at risk of severe illness from COVID and/or disproportionately affected by COVID.

8. Who can receive funding?

Entities that support the health and wellness of residents in the Mat-Su Borough and the cities, including for-profit and non-profit entities, health care providers, tribal entities, government, school district and schools, and faith-based organizations. Entities must have a physical location in the Mat-Su or indicate what services or population numbers are served in the Mat-Su.

9. Does this program follow the same Mat-Su Health Foundation funding priorities and Grant Guidelines?

This funding has its own guidelines based on requirements provided by the State DHSS. After contacting us about a concept, entities will be asked to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) and budget. For grants or contracts, if the LOI is approved, then the entity will need to submit additional information. If a grant or contract is awarded it will specify activities, services and items that can be expended by the awardee.

10. How are funds disbursed?

Funding will be disbursed based on an agreed schedule and activities in a grant agreement or contract. Entities will be reimbursed for eligible expenses. An advance or initial payment of the funding may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

11. What are the reporting requirements?

Reporting requirements and invoice schedule will be established in a grant agreement or contract. Each entity will need to submit invoices, along with backup documentation or receipts. All items contained in the grant/contract will be pre-approved. For items or activities

that are not in the grant/contract, the entity will need to obtain prior approval from the Mat-Su Health Foundation before the expense can be eligible for reimbursement.

12. Are indirect costs allowed?

No, per federal guidelines, this funding cannot be used for any percentage of indirect costs. However, it can fund any direct staff, temporary staff or consultant costs directly associated with the implementation of grant/contract activities.

13. We currently receive DHSS funding; can we apply for this grant?

Yes, but only if the activities that are requested are not the same as the ones currently being funded, unless the request is to expand or increase capacity of currently-funded activities.

14. How do I apply?

All entities interested in funding should first either email or call at c19grant@healthymatsu.org or 907.373.2827. If the proposed idea fits in the funding requirements, then applicants will be sent a Letter of Interest (LOI) to complete. If any applicant has difficulty completing the form, staff are available to work with them and support completion.

Upon receipt of the LOI, the MSHF staff will complete an initial review in coordination with State Division of Public Health. Upon determination of eligibility, applicant will be directed to complete the full grant application or to complete a proposal with the details of the scope of work and budget for a contract.

15. Ideas for Funding

Below are several ideas for eligible items. **The list is not exclusive, and we welcome your ideas.** Any proposed ideas should align with the three strategic areas of the funding identified above. Feel free to contact us at c19grant@healthymatsu.org with new ideas.

Maintain or increase COVID-19 testing capacity

- Serial screening testing for employees and participants in reoccurring activities.
- Continue or start to offer testing (staff, building lease, supplies/materials, publicity, and advertising, e.g. at workplaces or other locations).
- Activities that will make testing easier and accessible.
- Mobile testing and/or pop-up clinics (staff, vehicle lease, supplies/materials, publicity, and advertising)
- COVID mitigation needs for facilities (minor renovation, supplies, equipment).
- Transportation for non-medical emergency COVID-19 testing.
- Expand hardware/software to improve laboratory capacity and information technologies.

Maintain or increase COVID-19 vaccination

- Continue or start to offer vaccinations (staff, building lease, supplies/materials, publicity, and advertising).
- Activities that will make vaccinations easier and accessible.
- Mobile and/or pop-up vaccination clinics (staff, vehicle lease, supplies/materials, publicity, and advertising, e.g. at workplaces or other locations).
- COVID mitigation needs for facilities (minor renovation, supplies, equipment).
- Transportation for non-medical emergency vaccinations.
- Temporary staffing to support medical care providers in contacting patients who have not yet been vaccinated or for reminders.
- Ultra-cold freezers to store vaccines.

COVID-19 outreach and community engagement

- Participate in or host events or booths at health fairs, conferences, and community gatherings (e.g., sports or faith-based events) or other information sharing events (lease/rentals, publicity, staff/temp staff time, signage, items for parking control, porta potty rentals, tents, tables).
- Other outreach strategies (staff/temp staff time, materials, publicity).
- Translation of information materials in other languages and/or to meet ADA requirements.
- Outreach to specific geographic areas, neighborhoods, and/or population groups to address health equity.
- Develop targeted media materials and dissemination, such as the creation of videos, mailers, radio/newspaper ads and social media.
- Conduct “conversations” for communities/workplaces/interest groups led by appropriate professionals on a variety of topics such as: trauma and COVID-19, mental wellness, vaccinations, and/or health equity.

COVID recovery and prevention (Activities must specifically relate to COVID recovery, mitigation and prevention measures.)

- Activities targeted to vulnerable groups of people that improve health equity.
- Provide services to increase access in areas lacking access to information/health centers.
- Outreach/communication activities designed to lower barriers, increase education and health literacy, and to support health and wellness.
- Targeted grants to non-profits to support mental and behavioral health and/or healthy living (e.g., reducing COVID-19 risk factors, hygiene).
- COVID-19 recovery and/or prevention support for homeless, seasonal/transient, vulnerable or other at-risk populations.
- Support for faith-based communities and other types of organizations to support COVID-19 recovery and/or prevention.

- Childcare by a State-licensed facility on a drop-off basis to enable access to the vaccine/testing.
- Emergency preparedness assessment and identifying improvements to be better prepared for a public health emergency.
- Assessment of accessibility/access/safety and mitigation for vulnerable populations when accessing health care facilities and services.
- Improvement of community centers or gathering locations to increase testing, vaccinations, quarantine options and/or support socially distance community activities.
- Support shelters/spaces for quarantine/isolation and spaces for testing/vaccines.
- Upgrade facilities and/or public buildings with touchless plumbing fixtures.
- Create health improvements within homeless outreach programs.
- Air filtration via portable HEPA filtration for enclosed spaces (classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, etc.) and/or other ways to increase ventilation.
- Mitigation/prevention efforts that limit the spread of disease.
- Food expenses for COVID positive individuals or those in quarantine. Delivery of food for homebound individuals (for homebound residents, food expenses are not eligible).
- Treatment option(s) related to COVID recovery and prevention that are provided free and/or targeted to vulnerable populations.

Other

- Incentives such as <\$25 value items (gift cards, taxi vouchers, transport voucher, childcare) to remove barriers to testing or vaccines.
- Incentives for medical providers to use VacTrak and/or to boost wellness visits with COVID information.
- Equipment including computers, software, licensing/subscriptions that will support goals of this grant.
- Outreach activities by entities that represent underserved populations.
- Stipends for local experts or community members to share outreach educational information about COVID-19 and/or contribute to community focused groups or health advisory groups, etc.
- Respite services due to COVID-19. For example, quarantine and/or lodging for individuals before or after treatment, to prevent homelessness, or out-of-home care.

16. What activities/items are not allowed?

- Resources or activities funded by another DHSS contract, grant or MOA.
- Purchase of vehicles.
- Reimbursement of costs prior to May 1, 2021.
- Theoretical research meant to increase scientific knowledge.
- Indirect costs associated with the award.

- Food and/or water, or any items related to food such as refrigerators, freezers, grills etc.
- Food/grocery costs associated with any home-delivered meals or grab and go options.
- Hospital bills or insurance claims.
- Paying staff to process insurance claims.
- Clinical care
- Incentives with a value of more than \$25
- Lobbying activities other than normal and recognized executive legislative relationships. No funds may be used for:
 - Publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body.
 - The salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislative, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before any legislative body.

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Note: The FAQs are a living document and will be updated over the timespan of the grant. Any new FAQs will be added in sequence from the last one entered, except for allowable activities that are listed under #15 Ideas for Funding. New allowable activities will be marked with an asterisk (*).