

## 2024 Healthy Aging Through Community Connections: Grants Available

The Healthy Aging Focus Area at the Mat-Su Health Foundation would like to invite organizations serving older adults (60+) and/or tribal Elders in the Mat-Su to apply for grant funding. The purpose of the Healthy Aging Through Community Connections initiative is to support community-led efforts to meet the needs of the Mat-Su Borough's rapidly growing population of older adults and to seek an accessible and sustainable support system for older residents to maintain their independence and quality of life.

This grant program will support three areas:

- Increase access to and awareness of services and resources for older adults/Elders and/or organizations serving older adults/Elders
- Support community connectedness for older adults/Elders and/or organizations serving older adults/Elders
- Improve quality of care and services/support of caregivers and Direct Support Professionals serving older adults/tribal Elders

### Questions:

**Before you apply,** please share your grant idea with Kathy Swartz, Program Officer [kswartz@healthymatsu.org](mailto:kswartz@healthymatsu.org) and she can help direct you to the appropriate application.

**Eligibility?** Prospective grantees must provide services or benefits to Mat-Su residents and be a tax-exempt organization in good standing as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and with State of Alaska law. Applicants must have a physical location in the Mat-Su or indicate what services or population numbers are served in the Mat-Su.

In select cases, MSHF may grant to tax exempt organizations as described in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code for charitable purposes. MSHF may also fund health and wellness-related projects as undertaken by faith-based, governmental, educational, community councils, or tribal entities.

**How do I apply?** These grants will be in alignment with grant policies and procedures of the Mat-Su Health Foundation. See guidelines [here](#). Read the guidelines and eligible amounts for each type of grant. Normal MSHF processing timelines and procedures will apply.

**How much can I ask for?** The total amount available for grants under this specific Healthy Aging project in 2024 is about \$450,000. This can be spread out among many different organizations or a few. Keep this in mind when requesting funding. Or contact Kathy Swartz to discuss.

**Is there a deadline?** Applications can be received on a rolling basis starting now. **For consideration this calendar year, applications should be received no later than April 15, 2024.** Applications will be reviewed all at the same time.

**How long can a grant be for?** Grants can be single or multi-years (up to 3 years). There will be an opportunity for the next three years to apply for funding (2024, 25, 26).

**What is a priority for this funding?** A priority for this funding is to support or expand services and/or collaborative efforts that will positively impact vulnerable or underserved older adults/Elders, but this does not have to be exclusive. Vulnerability can include financial status, living alone, isolation in rural/remote areas; housing instability; depending on a caregiver; receiving home health/respite/chore services; access to food; geography and ethnicity; language; proximity and connection to services; disability; physical and/or behavioral health status; and transportation challenges, among others.

Other criteria for projects or programs that:

- Serve older adults and/or tribal Elders, age 60+ and older
- Build on existing connections and collaborations that serve older adults/Elders
- Support resource navigation and awareness
- Can anticipate or forecast long-term sustainability or have other funding
- Increase social connections among older adults and/or among organizations
- Informed by recent research by [MSHF](#) and the [Mat-Su Older Adult Behavioral Health Needs Assessment](#)
- If funding is awarded, willingness to provide basic information for evaluation purposes; or the grant request can include funds for new evaluation information.

**What are some examples of projects, programs, events or activities that could be funded?** This is not an exhaustive list and other ideas are strongly encouraged.

- Projects to improve access, awareness, availability of services and supports;
- Projects to increase resource navigation capacity or care coordination;
- Resource awareness campaigns, information campaigns and strategy to communicate: how do people find out what they want or need to know?
- Support to build community partnerships;
- Collaborative ideas/creative ideas that build on what is already going on;
- Build capacity and future sustainability of programs and services: training/technical assistance; capacity building; expert help; evaluation; learning strategies; future funding/sustainability;
- Technical assistance for specific needs or expert advice;
- Mobile options and/or in-home options to support independent living;
- Projects to decrease social isolation and support connectedness;
- Programs to support caregivers and Direct Support Professionals for older adults by improving availability and quality of services.

**What is ineligible for funding under this specific Grant Program?**

- Routine operating costs including wages and/or vehicles, unless they advance the priorities listed above (please contact Kathy to discuss for these cases)
- Broadband
- Large-scale transportation
- Capital, including housing (buildings or renovations)

Organizations interested in pursuing funding may contact Kathy Swartz [kswartz@healthymatsu.org](mailto:kswartz@healthymatsu.org) to learn more.