

## MGH Community Health Impact Funds

### LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) 2026 *Mental and Behavioral Health* *Economic Stability and Mobility*

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. Who is eligible to apply?

Massachusetts-based academic centers, other non-profit community-based organizations and municipalities serving Suffolk County are eligible to apply.

Internal MGB affiliated community, clinical or research departments are **NOT** eligible for this funding.

### 2. What funding is currently available?

#### **Priority: Mental and Behavioral Health (MBH)**

##### **Available now: \$3 Million.**

The \$3 million will be divided equally between the two strategies with \$1.5 million assigned to each.

Applicants will apply under **one strategy through one of two grant categories:**

Transformational Grants — Up to \$500,000

Supplementary Grants — Up to \$250,000

#### **Priority: Economic Stability and Mobility (ESM)**

##### **Available now: \$3 Million.**

Applicants may propose projects addressing one or both funding strategies through one of two grant categories:

Transformational Grants — Up to \$500,000

Supplementary Grants — Up to \$300,000

\*For both priorities, the Allocation Committees could vary the mix of grant categories based on proposal quality. The allocation committee and MGB also reserve the right to award an amount that differs from the amount requested to maximize the impact and strategic distribution of available funding.

### 3. What are the strategies for each priority area (MBH and ESM)?

#### **Mental and Behavioral Health (MBH) strategies:**

### **A) Workforce Pipeline, Advancement & Retention**

Build and sustain a diverse, community-rooted mental and behavioral health workforce by strengthening career pathways, expanding advancement opportunities, and improving retention across the continuum of care.

1. Training, credentialing, and advancement opportunities for existing frontline staff, including community health workers, peer specialists, recovery coaches, youth mentors, paraprofessionals, and other community-based workers
2. Career ladder programs that enable workers to progress to higher-skilled and higher-wage mental and behavioral health roles while remaining employed
3. Recruitment, retention, advancement, and workforce pipeline initiatives that increase workforce diversity and cultural and linguistic concordance with the communities served. This may include paid internships, apprenticeships, field placements, and supervision models, and career pathway opportunities that create on-ramps and advancement opportunities for diverse and multilingual talent.
4. Retention supports that improve workforce stability and reduce burnout, including reflective supervision, mentorship, peer support, manageable caseload models, leadership development, flexible work arrangements, and employee wellness initiatives
5. Supports that enable caregivers and working adults to participate in and remain in the workforce, such as childcare assistance, transportation support, and flexible training schedules

### **B) Integrated Care Coordination & Wraparound Support Systems**

Strengthen integrated, person-centered, culturally and linguistically responsive systems that address the social, economic, and health factors affecting mental and behavioral health and wellbeing. Support the development and expansion of coordinated wraparound models that connect individuals to a continuum of services and provide ongoing navigation, follow-up, and stabilization support—recognizing that referrals alone are often insufficient to ensure engagement and positive outcomes. Priority will be given to models that are community-rooted, reflect the cultural and linguistic needs of the population served, and build trust through partnerships with community-based organizations and providers. Investments may include:

1. Development of multidisciplinary care coordination teams that integrate mental and behavioral health, primary care, housing, food security, substance use, education, and social service providers, with emphasis on culturally responsive, linguistically accessible, and community-informed care.
2. Infrastructure and staffing that enable longitudinal client tracking, cross-provider communication, shared care planning, and coordinated service delivery across systems while supporting culturally responsive engagement and continuity of care.
3. Integration of mental & behavioral health support within housing, food access, workforce development, youth-serving, educational, other community-based settings in ways that are accessible, culturally responsive, and trusted by the communities it serves.
4. Community-based, wraparound models that help individuals address urgent social and economic needs that may contribute to mental and behavioral health crises, instability, or disengagement from care. This may include flexible support mechanisms that remove barriers such as transportation, childcare, technology access, housing-related needs, language access, or other short-term stabilization supports that enable individuals to access and remain connected to services.
5. School- and community-based coordination models and cross-sector partnerships that strengthen connections among families, service providers, healthcare systems, and community resources. Funding may



support system-building efforts that improve continuity of care, reduce fragmentation, enhance care navigation and follow-up, and increase access to culturally and linguistically responsive, coordinated supports.

### **Economic Stability and Mobility (ESM) strategies:**

#### **A) Innovative Workforce Development:**

Adopt innovative workforce development strategies that provide good jobs, have employer partnerships & demonstrate systems change. We are looking for proposals that address one or more of the following:

1. Create or expand apprenticeships, paid internships, and workplace learning aligned with high-demand, high-wage sectors or that include pathways that lead to higher wages.
2. Improve job quality (wages, benefits, advancement pathways)
3. Build public-private partnerships with clear employer commitments.
4. Pilot or scale systems-change approaches (policy, sector coordination, new funding models-employer co-investment).

#### **Priority Focus Areas choices:**

- Care economy (childcare, eldercare, healthcare support roles)
- Non- traditional: financial services, accounting, legal, other
- Small business support and technology/AI adaptation
- Credential recognition and workforce inclusion.

#### **B) Invest in Multilingual Workforce:**

Provide opportunities that advance long-term economic mobility through end-to-end career pathway models that move individuals, with or without foreign professional experience, into living-wage careers with clear advancement opportunities. We are looking for proposals that:

1. Provide integrated training models (English + technical skills); high touch career navigation and coaching such as:
  - a) 6+ months of career coaching
  - b) Personalized career and education plans
  - c) Regular one-one coaching sessions (weekly or biweekly)
  - d) Goal setting, progress monitoring, and accountability support, career exploration tied to labor market opportunities and participant interests.
2. Align training with high-demand, high-wage sectors: (healthcare, skilled trades, tech, other)
3. Offer industry-recognized credentials.
4. Demonstrate strong employer partnerships.

#### **Priority populations:**

- Immigrants and multilingual workers
- Individuals without postsecondary credentials or with credentials not recognized in the U.S.A.
- Youth and early-career workers
- Workers in low-wage or unstable jobs
- Single-parent caregivers



#### 4. What documentation (forms or proof of status) is required?

No documents outside of the LOI are required at this time.

If invited to submit a full proposal, you will need to include all the components described and required by the Request for Proposals such as a W-9 form.

#### 5. What are the priority neighborhoods?

- Any Boston neighborhood
- City of Chelsea
- City of Revere
- Town of Winthrop

#### 6. Is there a limit to the amount of funds requested?

##### **Mental and Behavioral Health (MBH)**

Applicants will apply under one strategy through one of the two categories:

| Award type              | Strategies Addressed | Maximum Request | Grant Period |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Transformational</b> | One Strategy, A or B | \$500,000       | 1-3 Years    |
| <b>Supplementary</b>    | One Strategy, A or B | \$250,000       | 1-3 Years    |

##### **Economic Stability and Mobility (ESM)**

Applicants may apply to address **one or a combination of both strategies** through one of the two categories:

| Grant Type              | Strategies Addressed    | Maximum Request | Grant Period |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Transformational</b> | One Strategy, A or B    | \$500,000       | 1-3 Years    |
|                         | Both Strategies A and B | \$500,000       | 1-3 Years    |
| <b>Supplementary</b>    | One Strategy, A or B    | \$300,000       | 1-3 Years    |

Organizations are asked to request only what is needed for the proposed project.

During this phase of the process, the allocation committee will gain an understanding of the need in communities and the creative ways organizations and municipalities would like to respond to these needs.

#### 7. What are the deadlines and announcement dates?

Please note that the grant process for both priorities, MBH and ESM, is simultaneous. The only dates that differ are the dates for the information forums. There are two information forums for each priority at different dates and times to offer options and flexibility.



| Event                                  | Date                           |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Letter of Intent (LOI) Opens           | Friday, September 25           |
| Information Forums for LOI             |                                |
| <b>Mental and Behavioral Health</b>    | Wednesday, October 7, 3-5 p.m. |
|                                        | Friday, October 9, 10-12 p.m.  |
| <b>Economic Stability and Mobility</b> | Friday, October 2, 10-12 p.m.  |
|                                        | Tuesday, October 6, 12-2 p.m.  |
| LOI deadline                           | Wednesday, October 21, 2026    |
| Notification to Selected Applicants    | Mid-December                   |
| Release of Request for Proposals (RFP) | Mid-December                   |
| RFP Technical Support                  | Upon Request                   |
| RFP Deadline                           | February 3, 2027               |
| Notification of Grant Awards           | Beginning of April 2027        |

#### 8. Can one organization apply for more than one grant?

Yes, organizations can submit more than one LOI if aiming to address different strategies. The organization may not submit more than one application for the same strategy. Also, the applicant may apply in the name of their own organization and participate in another application as a member of a collaborative or partnership. However, please note that every LOI submitted is competing against all others submitted, even against those submitted by the same organization.

#### 9. What are the restrictions on the usage of these funds?

Per Department of Public Health guidelines, funds must address social determinants of health (SDoH) and health equity with an upstream (structural/policy) approach to improving community health in the target areas.

These funds must address the priority area through the strategies identified. Proposals must serve one or more of the listed regions (see question #2). As per the Department of Public Health, funds are **NOT** allowed to be awarded to the following projects or activities:

1. Medical treatments
2. Clinical/community linkage programs for existing or future patients
3. Capital and operating expenses for medical programs
4. Costs of transportation to/from the hospital and services unless necessary to accomplish objectives of a specific community health improvement strategy.
5. Reimbursed services, costs associated with developing or expanding interpretive services.
6. Funding support for (Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Coordinating organizations (such as the Boston Collaborative, or North Suffolk Collaborative, etc.)

#### 10. Will there be an information session to learn more?

Yes! We are offering two information forums for each priority. You need to register to attend the forums. See links here:



Mental and Behavioral Health:

- **Wednesday, October 7, from 3-5 p.m.** [Register here](#)
- **Friday, October 9, from 10-12 p.m.** [Register here](#)

Economic Stability and Mobility

- **Friday, October 2 from 10 a.m.-12p.m.** [Register here](#)
- **Tuesday, October 6, from 12-2 p.m.** [Register here](#)

#### **11. Where can I find help to access and work on the LOI form?**

Find here links to an instructional document that will walk you through the steps on how to register for an account in Survey Monkey Apply to access and fill out the LOI. It also gives you a preview of all the questions on LOI.

For Economic Stability and Mobility, [click here](#).

For Mental and Behavioral Health, [click here](#).

For more specific questions, feel free to contact **Sylvia Chiang** at [srchiang@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:srchiang@mgh.harvard.edu).

#### **12. What criteria will be considered in the evaluation of the LOI?**

**For Mental and Behavioral Health:**

- Alignment with the selected strategy
- Understanding of community need, connection and responsiveness
- Potential for upstream/systems-level impact
- Strength of the proposed approach in addressing the chosen strategy
- Organizational/Partnership readiness and feasibility

**For Economic Stability and Mobility:**

- Alignment with the selected strategy(ies)
- Potential to advance economic stability and mobility
- Strength and relevance of the approach
- Employer and partnership engagement
- Systems change/sustainability potential
- Organizational fit and feasibility

The review committee will ensure that proposals represent work from all areas of Suffolk County.

**For further questions please submit your inquiry to [srchiang@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:srchiang@mgh.harvard.edu).**

