



Saginaw County Health Equity Mini-Grant Information

Mini-Grant Program

Saginaw County Health Department (SCHD) and the BWell Saginaw Partner Coalition have been awarded a grant to create a Health Equity Council (HEC) in Saginaw County. The HEC invites county residents, groups, or organizations to apply for mini-grants to support activities that address COVID-19 and other disparities impacting racial and ethnic minority populations in Saginaw County.

Grantmaking Scope

The Saginaw County Health Equity Grant will fund 8-10 awardees (individuals, groups, or organizations). The total funding for the mini-grant program is \$100,000. Selected awardees could begin implementing their proposal projects from **January 1, 2023**. **Grant project period is January 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023. All awardees will submit a final report of their activities and impact by June 15, 2023.** If additional funding becomes available during the project timeline, notification will be sent to grantees to seek interest in increased funding.

Need

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic minorities throughout Saginaw County. There is significant work to be done to address and reduce community risk factors and needs related to COVID-19 and other root causes of health inequities in the region. To address these and other health inequities, SCHD and BWell Saginaw have established a regional Health Equity Council made up of both people who live in Saginaw County and community organizations that are experienced in working with local minority populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Our Why

The Health Equity Council (HEC) of Saginaw County is seeking applications from community members to redistribute grant funds to individuals, groups, or organizations that will use the funds toward reducing COVID-19-related inequities and risk factors for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Grant Criteria

Funds will be invested in grassroots and/or community nonprofit organizations in Saginaw County, Michigan. Projects will be focused on reducing inequities and risk factors related to COVID-19 for local racial and ethnic minority populations in Saginaw County. These grants support projects serving majority communities of color, historically and systematically marginalized people. Applicants may choose to collaborate their efforts with others as coalitions are eligible to apply. It is important to note that applicants do not have to be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to apply. **This funding opportunity is for anyone wanting to lead and create change.**

- Individual applicants must be residents of Saginaw County
 - Preference will be given to groups and organizations based in Saginaw County, but any project serving Saginaw County residents is eligible.

Grant Application Timeline:

- Grant RFP Announcement: **November 28, 2022**
- Grant Application Deadline: **December 9, 2022 by 5:00pm**
- Mini-grant requests will be reviewed by HEC. Award announcements will be shared no later than **December 31, 2022**
- Project period is **January 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023.**
- Applicants will provide a project final report on/before **June 15, 2023.**
- Grantee Kick off meeting - **January 11, 2023 at 10:00am.**

Who Should Apply?

- Individuals, groups, or organizations who want to reduce health disparities and related risk factors among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities in Saginaw County.
- Grassroots, community organizers, and agencies that want to collaborate with others to evoke change in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities in Saginaw County.
- Anyone wanting to lead and create change.

Grant Overview/Details

- A total of \$100,000 will be available to fund up to a maximum of 10 awards.
- Projects will be focused on reducing inequities and risk factors related to COVID-19 for local Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. These grants support projects serving majority communities of color, historically and systematically marginalized people.
- Funds for min-grants are reimbursement based. Awarded organizations/individuals will

receive an initial 20% of the requested grant amount. Organizations must submit invoices to the Saginaw County Health Department showing completion of activities to receive additional funds.

- The Saginaw County Community Foundation will be acting as the fiduciary for the min-grants. As such, funded organizations/individuals will receive payment from the Saginaw Community Foundation.
- Funds can be used to support program activities such as staff time, materials and supplies, participant incentives, workshops/trainings/education opportunities, travel, promotional items, and room costs.
- Fund **cannot** be used for lobbying, food, or equipment purchases.
- Applicants may be contacted during the review process for additional information.
- Applications will be accepted the following ways:
 - Online by filling out the [HEC Mini-Grant Online Application](#)
 - Completing a paper application and delivering it to the Saginaw County Health Department - Room 301, 1600 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw MI 48602.

Examples of Grant Ideas

- Applicants may propose programming to aid communities in their efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including public health challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as mental health and substance abuse.
- Funding projects (groups/collaborations) that conduct Workshops, educational events, training sessions, and direct service projects to address COVID-19 disparities among BIPOC.
- Funding projects allow organizations to lead programs that create workforce pathways for BIPOC residents, including deliberate training, certifications and hiring preferences or support populations' negative impacts by COVID-19.

Application Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Grant Strategy for reducing disparities among BIPOC communities in Saginaw County that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19: *How will this project increase opportunity for everyone to live the healthiest life possible, no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make?*
- Grant idea: *Does this project address disparities caused by COVID-19 in one or more of these ways?*
 - Offers a new perspective on addressing a longstanding problem;

- Educates or promotes knowledge or cultural practices;
 - Takes an existing approach and expands its application with new innovation or idea;
 - Explores how an emerging trend will shape the future; and/or
 - Details the type of innovation your project will contribute, positively impact BIPOC communities
 - Budget - Justification of expenses is clear. [HEC Mini-Grant Fillable Budget Template](#)
 - Work plan is attached and shows project can be completed by May 31, 2023. [HEC Mini-Grant fillable Work Plan Template](#)
- Applications will be reviewed and scored by a sub-committee of the Health Equity Council.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What advice would you give to applicants?

- Be concise about what the grant will fund.
- Be specific about the impact that the funds will have, either on you, your organization, or those you serve. Avoid general phrases like "Helping those in need," "Empowering youth," or "Feeding the hungry" - these are too general and do not help us understand what you are specifically supporting with the funds.
- Your application will be considered amongst other applicants by our Health Equity Council (HEC). Therefore, all applicants should be clear and compelling in their requests.

How do I apply for a mini-grant from the Saginaw County Health Equity Council?

- Complete the online application by **December 9, 2022 by 5:00pm** using this link: [HEC Mini-Grant Online Application](#)
- Applicants can request assistance by e-mailing leiland@saginawcounty.com or call **989-758-3805**.
- Paper applications must be dropped off at the Saginaw County Health Department, Room 301, located at 1600 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602 no later than **5:00pm on December 9, 2022**.
- Is there a specific time period when the Health Equity Grant will accept funding applications?
 - The grant application period is **November 28, 2022 - December 9, 2022**.
- Mini-grant requests will be reviewed by HEC throughout the application period. Award announcements will be shared no later than **December 31, 2022**

Who Should Apply?

- Individuals, groups, and organizations who want to reduce health disparities and related risk factors among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in Saginaw County.
- Grassroots, community organizers, and agencies that want to collaborate with others to evoke change in BIPOC communities.
- Anyone wanting to lead and create change.

I have submitted an application online – when can I expect to receive an update on its status?

All applicants will be notified no later than December 31, 2022

I am experiencing technical difficulties uploading my application, can you help me?

Call 989-758-3805 or e-mail leiland@sagianwcounty.com.

Can I apply for more than one Mini-grant?

Our guidelines state that we will fund an organization *no more than once in a calendar year*. Rare exceptions apply. As you decide to apply for this mini-grant, consider requesting funds for projects that directly will impact BIPOC communities that were negatively influenced by COVID-19. Which area of focus program or service is your highest priority to be funded?

My organization is focused on economic empowerment. Should I apply?

We recognize that some organizations act as economic catalysts in BIPOC communities and provide services to projects that address community development needs. Applicants could also align with their work with funds from this opportunity to support individuals and families (workforce development) projects. For example, an applicant can request funds for job shadowing opportunities or internship programs for high school/ college youth (target participants should be from BIPOC community). Many risk factors for COVID-19 are broad and systemic (social determinants of health and root causes). Many types of projects and organizations engaged in community service could be eligible.

How do I know what amount to apply for?

Grant amounts awarded will vary. A total of \$100,000 will be available to fund up to a maximum of 10 awards. Applicants are encouraged to apply for funds based on project idea and desired outcome.

Who will review my grant application?

The Saginaw County Health Equity Council will review all applications. The HEC will select 8 - 10 awardees (individuals, groups, or organizations) for available funding.

What can I do to improve my application?

1. Keep the application responses succinct and to the point. Try to answer all questions.
2. Write your responses in a Word document first. Have other people review your application before submission and proofread it. Ask them if they understand what you've written and if they would award you a grant based on the application.

3. Make sure your math is correct and the budget adds up correctly.
4. Provide a detailed, itemized budget, both revenue and expenses. It demonstrates that you've done your research and have a solid plan to move proceed with your project.
5. Make sure your project idea aligns with the goal of the mini-grant (address COVID-19 inequities and risk factors among BIPOC communities in Saginaw County).