



## 2027 Grant Cycle Frequently Asked Questions

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## About MHM

### What is MHM's definition of health equity?

Health Equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

Health Equity is both the process and goal by which MHM seeks to carry out its mission of "Serving Humanity to Honor God." MHM recognizes there are inherent inequities within communities that contribute to poor health outcomes.

MHM believes advancing health equity requires a framework of thought and action that strives to reduce racial and socio-economic disparities and create fair and just opportunities for every person to reach their full potential for health and life and contribute to that of others.

Source: Braveman P, Arkin E, Orleans T, Proctor D, and Plough A. *What Is Health Equity? And What Difference Does a Definition Make?* Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2017.

### What is MHM's geographic service area?

MHM serves 74 counties throughout west, south, central, and coastal Texas.

Refer to the MHM Areas of Strategic Opportunity Map for the counties included in our service area. Priority Geographies for grant funding include regions J, K, and L, rural counties, and priority zip codes in Bexar County.

### Is a Community Investments grant different from Prosperemos Juntos/Thriving Together (PJTT) funding opportunities?

Yes. The MHM CI grant and the PJTT funding support are unique and distinct programs.

The MHM CI grants were originally focused on supporting access to care. Over the years, MHM broadened its definition of healthcare and transitioned to supporting the Social Determinants of Health through an annual grants award cycle. Grant awards are made directly to tax-exempt non-profit organizations working to advance specific SDOH that are identified as CI grantmaking focus areas.

The MHM PJTT program's purpose is to sponsor and support local, community-based, and health-focused coalitions that are composed of organizations and people with lived experience. PJTT funds and supports coalitions within the 74-county service area as they develop emergent strategies and shift power to address root causes of health inequities in their communities.

## About Community Investments Grantmaking

### How do the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) fit into MHM's grantmaking strategy to achieve health equity?

As MHM strives to achieve health equity and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, we will seek to support organizations, projects, and collaboratives working to address root causes and the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, and work, otherwise known as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Review the CI Grants Glossary for information on the SDOH.

**What are MHM’s grantmaking focus areas?**

MHM’s goals are to continue to invest in direct service efforts and increase grant investments that address root causes and seek to improve community conditions in five key areas:

- Access to Care - Mental & Behavioral Health
- Access to Care - General
- Digital Equity
- Food Security
- Economic Mobility

**What geographies are prioritized for funding?**

Funding will be prioritized for efforts designed to serve individuals or address community conditions for these communities:

- Rural counties
- Within regions J, K, and L of MHM’s Areas of Strategic Opportunity
- That serve at least one of MHM’s priority zip codes in Bexar County

**What zip codes and programs in Bexar County are eligible to apply for a grant?**

Bexar County funding will be awarded for efforts focused on serving ONLY the following zip codes: 78201, 78204, 78207, 78211, 78214, 78217, 78221, 78222, 78224, 78225, 78226, 78228, 78237.

New Bexar County funding will only be awarded to requests that:

- Intentionally serve one or more of the 13 priority zip codes.
- Offer solutions that address root causes and seek to improve community conditions.

MHM will not consider county-wide requests intending to serve both priority and non-priority zip codes.

**How much funding does MHM expect to award in the 2027 grant cycle?**

Approximately \$15-17M will be awarded through the 2027 Open Cycle.

**What types of grants does MHM fund?**

Applicants will submit either an Open Cycle Standard or Open Cycle Small proposal. MHM funds three types of grants: project/program, capital, and general operating grants.

*Application Tracks*

Criteria	Standard	Small
Request Amount*	\$100,000+ per year	\$20,000 - \$100,000
	*Annual request cannot exceed 20% of the organization’s annual budget.	
Geographic Eligibility	74-county service region Prioritize applications serving zones J, K, L of the ASO and rural counties. New Bexar County applications must serve ONLY one or more priority zip codes.	Rural Counties J, K, L Areas of Strategic Opportunity

Organization Budget Size	Any size	Under \$1M
Budget Templates	MHM Budget Template	Organization's program/project budget or MHM Budget Template
Grant Period	1 year for all applicants 3 years for current grantees only	1 year for all applicants
Reporting Schedule	Mid-year and year-end reports	Year-end report only
Grant Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project/Program</li> <li>• Capital</li> <li>• General Operating (unrestricted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project/Program</li> <li>• Capital</li> <li>• General operating (unrestricted)</li> </ul>

*Grant Types*

**Project / Program Grants** that establish or sustain new, existing, or expanded programs or projects.

May include capital/renovation costs or capacity building costs associated with the project/program. To add it to the project budget template, add a line item for:

- Capacity building costs, up to 20% of the total grant request
- Capital/renovation costs, up to 50% of the total grant request

Example: A grant to add a facilitator and purchase materials for a nutrition program at a new location, including renovation of a room (new flooring, lighting, and paint).

**Capital Grants** include funds designated for investments in facilities or infrastructure that enable organizations to acquire, construct, or renovate physical assets that contribute to long-term sustainability. Eligible for single-year grant requests only.

Capital grants do not include program/project or capacity building expenses.

Example: An organization has purchased a new building. The organization submits a grant request to replace the roof.

**General Operating** grants provide unrestricted support for a nonprofit's mission to sustain day-to-day operations. Organization's mission and purpose must address one or more of MHM's focus area priorities.

**Standard grant applicants must meet specific criteria** to apply for a general operating standard grant, including:

Financial Criteria

- Organization's annual budget is \$10M or less

- Organization must have an accounting system with financial reporting capabilities
- Organization may not have significant deficiencies in the financial audit
- Organization must be considered low risk based on financial statements review by MHM staff
- IRS 990 form is completed annually and timely for the organization
- For Current Grantees:
  - Provided **annual** accounting system generated fiscal year-end financial statements
  - Provided accounting system generated **current year to date** financial statements
  - Organization has a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit conducted within the **past** fiscal year and provided a copy to MHM
- For New Applicants:
  - Provided **two years** of accounting system generated fiscal year-end financial statements
  - Provided accounting system generated **current year to date** financial statements
  - Organization has a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit conducted within the **two** fiscal years and provided both copies to MHM

#### Organization Criteria

- Organization is **501c3 nonprofit** (excludes government entities, colleges, and universities)
- Organization has an **active Board of Directors**
- Organization has **at least one paid staff member**

#### **What does MHM not fund?**

- Endowments
- Financial deficits or debt reduction
- Fundraising events
- Individual requests for grants or scholarships
- Insurance (unless for a capital grant)
- Land
- Legal fees (litigation related)
- Lobbying on behalf of a political candidate

MHM does not award grants to organizations that willfully discriminate against a particular class of individuals. To be eligible for funding, organizations must abide by all applicable local, state, and federal anti-discrimination laws in hiring, employment practices, and providing services.

#### **What is the duration of the grant period (e.g., one-year, multi-year, etc.)?**

Single-year funding is available for a 12-month period, which covers the calendar year from January through December.

Multi-year funding is available for a three-year period for organizations who are 2026 CI grantees and are currently in good standing (no significant unspent funds, good overall financial and program standing). We encourage *Open Cycle* multi-year applicants to reach out to their Program Officer to discuss their proposal.

## Grant Eligibility

### What organizations are eligible to apply for a 2027 MHM Grant?

An organization is eligible to receive funding if:

- The organization or its fiscal sponsor have had 501(c)(3) or tax-exempt status for at least one year.
- The organization will serve one or more counties in MHM's 74-county service [area](#).
- The organization's mission aligns with MHM strategic priorities including outcomes that are consistent with the MHM Community Investments focus area Theories of Change.
  - Review the Theories of Change in our Community Grants Library.
  - Review the [MHM Strategic Plan](#).

Organizations with an existing Digital Equity renewed grant or that are applying to the Economic Mobility RFP are eligible to apply to the 2027 Grant Cycle.

### Can my organization apply for more than one grant?

MHM will only accept **one** grant application per organization for the 2027 Grant Cycle.

Fiscal sponsors may submit multiple applications if they are serving as a fiscal sponsor for multiple organizations or applying for another organization and on their own behalf.

### What type of IRS designations are required for an organization to be eligible for a grant?

Organizations or fiscal sponsors that have maintained 501(c)(3) or tax-exempt status for at least one year are eligible to apply for an MHM grant.

## Application

### What is the process of applying for a grant?

1. Review the grant materials on the MHM CI 2027 Grants Cycle webpage.
2. Watch the 2027 Grant Cycle Informational Webinar.
3. Access the MHM Grants Portal to begin your application. Only applications submitted through MHM's portal will be accepted. Review the Grant Guidelines for instructions on accessing the portal.
4. Submit an application, including a proposed budget using the MHM template, and all other required documents on the MHM Fluxx Portal by the deadline. Required documents will vary by application type (Open Cycle-Standard or Open Cycle-Small Grants).

### What is the grant application deadline?

The deadline for Open Cycle applications is 5:00 pm on July 24, 2026. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

### How will I know if my application was received?

After submitting your application through the MHM Fluxx Portal, you will receive a confirmation message on the portal and via email. If you do not see a confirmation message, confirm that you have clicked on the "Submit" button. Your confirmation email may be sent to your spam folder.

If you submitted an application via the MHM Fluxx Portal but did not receive a confirmation message or confirmation email, please contact the MHM Community Investments staff at [CommInvestments@mhm.org](mailto:CommInvestments@mhm.org).

### **What is the minimum and maximum amount an organization can apply for within a grant cycle?**

MHM does not fund any amount over 20% of an organization's overall budget. The minimum award amount is \$20,000, and the typical grant award size is between \$220,000 and \$250,000.

### **Does MHM allow indirect costs?**

Indirect costs are:

- Allowed to be included in a grant at a maximum rate of 15% of the direct costs.
- Allowed to be included for universities/colleges up to 10%.
- Not allowed for government agencies or municipalities.
- Not applicable for General Operating grants.
- Not allowed for capital expenses, equipment purchases, or bulk computer purchases.
- Only allowed to be included at time of application.

Review MHM's Indirect Cost Guidelines for guidance as you prepare the grant application and budget.

### **Can I include fiscal sponsor fees in the proposed budget?**

Yes, fiscal sponsorship administrative fees can be included in the proposed budget. If you are applying with a fiscal sponsor, contact MHM Community Investments staff ([CommInvestments@mhm.org](mailto:CommInvestments@mhm.org)) for guidance on allowable fiscal sponsor fees.

## **Award Decision**

### **How does MHM decide whether to fund a grant proposal?**

MHM will use a scoring rubric to determine which applications to fund. Criteria include:

- Alignment to the focus areas Theories of Change
- Located within priority geographies: rural, regions J, K, L, & Bexar zip codes
- Financial and organizational sustainability
- Program or project design
- The extent to which the proposed activity includes:
  - Collaboration
  - Community perspectives
  - Efforts to serve the least served, including those who are economically disadvantaged, live in disadvantaged geographies, or have been historically disenfranchised
  - Efforts to address root causes that address community conditions

### **If a proposal is not funded for the 2027 grant year, will the organization be eligible to apply for future MHM grant opportunities?**

Yes, an organization will be considered for funding based on MHM's eligibility requirements and alignment with funding priorities for a future grant cycle.

**If a proposal is not funded for the 2027 grant year, is there someone I can speak with to better understand why?**

Yes, all organizations whose applications are declined will receive an email from MHM Communities Investment staff with an opportunity to discuss the reasons why.

**When will applicants know if their proposal will be funded?**

Organizations selected for a grant award will be notified by December 2026.

**When will funded partners receive their grant disbursements?**

Initial grant funds are disbursed based on the payment schedule selected during the application process but not before January 2027. Grant funds are disbursed on the same schedule but contingent on meeting all grant reporting requirements and maintaining good standing (no significant unspent funds, good overall financial and program standing).

**Reporting Requirements for Funded Proposals**

**What are the narrative reporting requirements for 2027 MHM grants?**

Narrative reports include an update on progress toward grant goals, challenges, successes, testimonials, and grant highlights.

- Open Cycle-Standard Grants funded partners will be expected to submit mid-year and year-end narrative reports via the MHM Grants Portal.
- Open Cycle-Small Grants funded partners will submit only a year-end report.

**Does MHM conduct site visits with funded partners?**

Yes, in addition to formal reports, funded partners may be asked to participate in one in-person or virtual site visit with their Program Officer and other MHM staff.

**What are the financial reporting requirements for 2027 MHM grants?**

Financial reports will include a budget-to-actual report (actual expenditure compared to the approved grant budget) with explanations for variances.

At the end of the grant period, MHM may request any funds that remain unspent be returned to MHM.

MHM does not require the submission of transactional documentation (such as receipts or general ledgers) for funded partners to receive their payment. However, MHM reserves the right to conduct an audit of all funds received and expended during the grant period.

Check the grant guidelines for additional details.

**General**

**Who can I speak to if I have additional questions?**

Contact MHM's Community Investments staff at [CommInvestments@mh.org](mailto:CommInvestments@mh.org).