

Methodist Healthcare Ministries
2026 Grant Year
Application FAQs

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About MHM

1. 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.

2. 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. Priority Geographies for grant funding include Areas J, K, and L as well as rural counties throughout our service area.

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

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 MHM Grantmaking

4. 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). For the 2026 grant cycle, MHM will direct funding toward six key focus areas of the SDOH.

Review the [CI Grants Glossary](#) for information on the SDOH.

5. 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 six key areas:

- Access to Care - General
- Access to Care - Mental & Behavioral Health
- Digital Equity
- Food Security
- Housing
- Education & Workforce Development

6. What geographies are prioritized for funding?

Funding will be prioritized for efforts designed to serve individuals or address community conditions in [rural counties](#) or within **J, K, and L** of MHM's [Areas of Strategic Opportunity](#).

7. What zip codes in Bexar County are eligible to apply for a grant?

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

8. How much money does MHM expect to award in the 2026 grant cycle?

Approximately \$4M will be awarded through the 2026 Open Cycle, and \$2M through the Cornerstone grants. Cornerstone grants are awarded by invitation only. Contact your program officer if you receive an email about a Cornerstone grant application.

9. What types of grants does MHM fund?

MHM funds three types of grants: project/program, capacity building and capital grants. Applicants will submit either an Open Cycle (standard or small) or an invitation-only Cornerstone proposal.

Open Cycle-Standard Grants can be requested by Open Cycle applicants if the amount requested is equal to or less than \$100,000, the organization's budget is equal to or less than \$1,000,000, and the organization serves in [rural counties](#) or **zones J, K, and L** of MHM's [Areas of Strategic Opportunity](#).

Open Cycle-Small Grants can be for project/program, capacity building, or capital grants, or applicants can choose to apply for unrestricted general operating support.

- Applicants are allowed to submit their organization's program/project budget
- If awarded, grantees will only be required to submit a year-end report
- Small grants are awarded for a single-year of funding only

Cornerstone proposals are accepted by invitation only. Grant applicants should refer to their invitation email for guidance on grant type.

Grant Types

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

- May include capital/renovation costs associated with the project or program, or support for capacity building related to the project or program.
- The *capacity building line item* included in a program or project proposal cannot exceed 20% of the total grant request.
- The *capital/renovation line item* included in a program or project proposal cannot exceed 50% of the total grant request.
 - a. Example: An organization requests a program grant to hire a facilitator and purchase materials for a nutrition program within one of its new locations. The location may require a room to be updated with new flooring, lighting, and paint.

Capacity Building Grants include organizational strengthening funds to help develop competencies, strategies, systems, and structures that improve effectiveness and contribute to long-term sustainability.

- Capacity building grants only include support to build capacity, and do not include capital or project/program expenses, such as program staff roles.
- Only Open Cycle applicants may apply for this type of grant.
- Example: A collaborative has been in existence for one year. The organizations participating have different requirements for sharing data. The collaborative will submit a grant request for a consultant to build a data sharing agreement for the organizations and identify a tool or software for the collaborative to capture data.

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.

- Capital grants do not include program/project or capacity building expenses
- If awarded, a current certificate of insurance must be submitted to MHM.
- Only Open Cycle applicants may apply for this type of grant.
- Example: An organization has purchased a new building. The organization submits a grant request to replace the roof.

10. What does MHM not fund?

- Endowments
- Financial deficits or debt reduction
- Fundraising events
- Individual requests for grants or scholarships
- Insurance (unless for a capacity building or 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.

11. 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 2025 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.
- Cornerstone grants are typically funded for a three-year period.

12. When should an organization apply for a capital grant or a capacity building grant as opposed to a program grant?

Applicants should determine the best grant for their organization based on their needs and priorities. A capacity building request should focus on strengthening the organization beyond a specific program. Questions can be directed to CommInvestments@mhmm.org.

Capacity Building Grants

13. What is MHM's definition of capacity building grants?

Capacity building is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of a nonprofit. It is the process of building and strengthening the systems, structures, cultures, skills, resources, and power that organizations need to advance their missions and serve their communities.

An MHM capacity building grant seeks to support organizational strengthening that ensures long-term sustainability and builds upon existing assets to enhance the nonprofit's ability to improve lives and promote health equity, thereby increasing their impact in the community.

Sources: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/what-capacity-building>

Nishimura, A., Sampath, R., Le, V., Sheikh, A. M., & Valenzuela, A. (2020). Transformational Capacity Building. Stanford Social Innovation Review, 18(4), 30–37.

14. What is the difference between a capacity building grant and capacity building services that MHM provides to funded partners?

The capacity building grant is a grant type available to organizations applying through the annual Open Cycle. Community Investments Capacity Building services are reserved for funded partners.

15. What kinds of organizational capacity-building areas are considered for funding?

Capacity-building areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Accounting/finance
- Assistance/consultation in a specific organizational area
- Board development
- Business planning for sustainability
- Communications/marketing
- Cybersecurity assessments
- Data management
- Development of a strategic plan
- Executive coaching
- Financial analysis
- Fundraising/development
- Governance
- Grant writing
- Human resources
- Impact measurement and evaluation
- Information technology
- Leadership
- Marketing/social media
- Merger and integration planning
- Organizational development
- Organizational assessments
- Professional development/staff training
- Program evaluation
- Strategic planning

- Succession planning
- Technical skills development to improve organizational effectiveness

16. What staff roles can be included in a capacity building request?

- For all capacity building requests, internal or external staff (i.e. consultants) supporting the organization to increase its capacity or leading capacity building work can be included.
- For program/project grant requests that include a capacity building line item, staff not directly involved in the program/project that are supporting capacity building can be included in the request.
- Capacity building grants are not intended to cover additional staff roles to expand existing programs/projects. Program Staff salaries can be included in program/project grant requests.

Grant Eligibility

17. What organizations are eligible to apply for a 2026 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 Community Investments grant for 2026 are not eligible to apply for the 2026 grant cycle. If you are unsure if your organization has a 2026 grant, contact CommInvestments@mhmm.org or your Program Officer. Organizations with an existing Digital Equity MOA are eligible to apply.

18. Can my organization apply for more than one grant?

MHM will only accept **one** grant application per organization.

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.

19. 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

20. What is the process of applying for a grant?

1. Review MHM Community Investment Grant Materials.
2. Attend/Watch the 2026 Grant Cycle Informational Webinar
3. Access the MHM Grants Portal to begin your application.
4. Submit an application, including a proposed budget using the MHM template, and all other required documents on the MHM Grants Portal by the deadline. Required documents will vary by application type (Open Cycle-Standard, Open Cycle-Small Grants, or Cornerstone).

21. What are the grant application deadlines?

The deadline for Open Cycle applications is 5:00 pm on August 15, 2025.

The deadline for Cornerstone applications is 5:00 pm on August 8, 2025.
Applications will not be accepted after the deadlines.

22. How will I know if my application was received?

After submitting your application through the MHM Grants 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 Grants Portal but did not receive a confirmation message or confirmation email, please contact the MHM Community Investments staff at CommInvestments@mhmm.org.

23. 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 \$25,000, and the average grant award size is between \$220,000 and \$250,000.

24. 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.

25. 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@mhmm.org) for guidance on allowable fiscal sponsor fees.

Award Decision

26. 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 areas, Zones J, K, and L)
- 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

27. If a proposal is not funded for the 2026 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.

28. If a proposal is not funded for the 2026 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.

29. When will applicants know if their proposal will be funded?

Organizations selected for a grant award will be notified by November 2025.

30. When will funded partners receive their grant disbursements?

Initial grant funds are disbursed based on the payment schedule selected during the application process. 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

31. What are the narrative reporting requirements for 2026 MHM grants?

Open Cycle and Cornerstone funded partners will be expected to submit mid-year and year-end narrative reports via the MHM Grants Portal. Open Cycle-Simple funded partners will submit only a year-end report. Narrative reports include an update on progress toward grant goals, challenges, successes, testimonials, and grant highlights.

32. 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.

33. What are the financial reporting requirements for 2026 MHM grants?

Open Cycle and Cornerstone funded partners will be expected to submit mid-year and year-end financial reports via the MHM Grants Portal using the MHM Budget Template provided. Open Cycle-Simple Grants funded partners will submit only a year-end financial report. Financial reports will include a budget-to-actual report (actual expenditure compared to approved grant budget) with explanations for variances.

Underspent funds at reconciliation will be reduced from the following grant payments.

- Single-year grants are reconciled at mid-year and year-end reporting.
- Multi-year grants are reconciled at mid-year and year-end reporting for year 1, and at year-end reporting for years 2 and 3.

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.

General

34. Who can I speak to if I have additional questions?

Contact MHM's Community Investments staff at CommInvestments@mhm.org.

