

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)

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2025 Grant Cycle

1. How do I know if my organization is eligible to apply for a grant?

An organization is eligible to receive funding if:

- The organization or fiscal sponsor has been a 501(c)(3) status least one year.
- The organization will serve one or more counties in [MHM's 74-county service area](#).
- The organization must align with MHM strategic priorities including outcomes that are consistent with MHM Community Investments focus area theories of change.
 - ***LINK TO TOCs ON WEBSITE***

Organizations with an existing Community Investments grant for 2025 are not eligible to apply for the 2025 grant cycle. If you are unsure if your organization has a 2025 grant, contact CommInvestments@mh.org or your program officer.

2. How can an organization apply for a grant?

Review the Grant Guidelines and follow Steps 1 – 4 to submit an application in MHM's online grant portal.

The deadline for Cornerstone applications is October 4, 2024, and the open-cycle grant applications are due October 11, 2024.

3. Can an organization apply for more than one grant?

MHM will only accept one grant application per organization unless the applicant organization is serving as a fiscal sponsor for another organization, in addition to applying for its own organizational needs. Should a grant application cross multiple focus areas, select the most impactful focus area as indicated by the outcome most closely connected to the funds requested.

As an example, a project supporting healthy food distribution intended to improve health outcomes as measured by biometric indicators would fall within the Access to Care General focus area even though there will be food distributed similar to Food Security investments that do not track biometric outcomes.

4. What are the grant application deadlines?

The deadline for Cornerstone applications is 11:59 pm on October 4, 2024, and the open-cycle grant applications are due by 11:59 pm on October 11, 2024. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

5. How will I know if an application was received?

Once the request is submitted through the online grant portal, your screen will confirm submission, and you will also receive an email confirmation. If the confirmation email is not received, confirm that you have clicked on the submit button in the online application or check your email spam folder.

Insert Screenshot of successful submission confirmation

6. What won't MHM fund?

- Endowments
- Financial deficits or debt reduction
- Fundraising events
- Grants or scholarships to individuals
- Insurance (unless for a capacity building or capital grant)
- Land
- Legal fees
- 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 when providing services.

7. What grant types will MHM fund?

An open cycle grant application can request MHM funding to support the grant types listed below. Cornerstone applicants should refer to their invitation email for additional guidance on grant types.

- **Project / Program:** Request to support an existing, new or expanded program or project. These requests may include capital/renovation costs associated with project or program.
 - **Example:** an organization requests a grant to add a facilitator for a nutrition program at one of its new locations. The location requires a room to be updated with new flooring, lighting, and paint.
 - The request may also add support for capacity building.
 - Capacity building line item not to exceed 20% of the total grant request
 - Capacity building line item will not count toward the 20% of organizational budget request limit
 - To include capacity building line item, add to the project budget template

- **Capacity Building:** Capacity Building requests only include support to build capacity, and do not include capital or project / program fund requests.
 - **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 use to capture their data.

- **Capital:** Capital requests should 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.

8. 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 a calendar year January through December.

Multi-year funding for three years is available for organizations who are 2024 Funded Partners through MHM Community Investments and are currently in good standing. We encourage multi-year applicants to reach out to their program officer to discuss their proposal. Cornerstone grants are for three years of funding only.

9. 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 by “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.

10. How do the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) fit into MHM’s strategy in achieving 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 and age, live, and work, otherwise known as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). For the 2025 grant cycle, MHM will direct funding toward six key focus areas of SDOH.

11. What are MHM’s focus areas?

MHM’s goal is to increase grant investments in upstream prevention strategies, strategies that improve community conditions, however, MHM will continue to invest in direct service downstream efforts. For 2025, MHM will support grants in six key areas:

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

12. Is it better to address one focus area or multiple?

While proposals may acknowledge multiple focus areas, applications will be evaluated based on outcomes as aligned to the appropriate focus area for reporting consistency purposes. Additional dollars will not be awarded for addressing more than one focus area.

13. How will MHM decide whether to fund an application?

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

- Alignment to Theories of Change and Community Investments Priorities
- Financial and Organizational Sustainability
- Program or Project Design

14. When will an organization be notified of a grant award decision?

Organizations selected for a grant award will be notified between December 2024 and January 2025.

15. If an organization is not selected for this funding opportunity, will the organization still be eligible for other MHM grant opportunities in the future?

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

16. What are the programmatic reporting requirements if an organization is awarded funding?

Funded partners will be expected to submit online mid-year and year-end reports describing the progress of their grants. In addition to formal reports, funded partners will have at least one in-person or virtual site visit with their program officer.

17. What are the financial reporting requirements if an organization is awarded funding?

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

As part of the mid-year and year-end reports, funded partners will submit a budget to actual financial report comparing the budgeted MHM grant expense amounts to the actual MHM grant expense amounts.

Underspent funds at reconciliation will be reduced from the following grant payments. Single-year grants are reconciled at mid-year reporting. Multi-year grants are reconciled at year-end reporting. 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

18. Does an organization need a 501c3 IRS designation to be eligible for a grant?

No. Tax exempt organizations may apply. Additionally, if an applicant organization does not have a 501(c)(3) designation, the applicant may use a fiscal sponsor to apply. The fiscal sponsor must have 501(c)(3) designation or tax exemption for at least one year.

19. What is MHM's geographic service area?

MHM serves 74-counties throughout west, south, central, and coastal Texas. Refer to the MHM service area map for the counties included.

20. What is the maximum amount an organization can apply for within a grant cycle?

In general, MHM will not fund any amount over 20% of an organization's overall budget, and the average grant award is \$250,000.

21. Does MHM allow indirect costs?

Yes, review MHM's Indirect Cost Policy as you prepare the grant application and budget.

22. How much does MHM expect to award in the 2025 grant cycle?

Approximately \$18 million will be awarded through the 2025 open-cycle. Additional funds will be awarded through the Cornerstone grants. Cornerstone grants are awarded by invitation only. Contact your program officer if you received an email about a Cornerstone grant application.

23. What if an organization is using a fiscal sponsor to apply for a grant?

As a fiscal sponsor, a part of the requested grant monies is allowable for sponsor responsibilities. If you are applying with a fiscal sponsor, contact MHM when applying for guidance on budget submission for allowable fiscal sponsor fees.

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

24. Can I speak to someone if I have additional questions?

Yes, contact MHM's Community Investments staff at CommInvestments@mh.org. include the focus area related to your request in the subject line. Emails that do not include the focus area in the subject line may cause delay in staff response time.

25. Is a grant different from Prosperemos Juntos/Thriving Together?

Initially, MHM awarded grants to support access to care. As MHM broadened the definition of healthcare, we transitioned to support other areas of health to include Social Determinants of Health.

PJTT's purpose is to fund and accompany coalitions (made up of organizations & persons with lived experience) to develop emergent strategy & shift power to address root causes of inequity.

Capacity Building Grant Requests

26. What does MHM mean by capacity building?

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 serve their communities.

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.

27. What kinds of organizational capacity-building areas can be considered for funding?

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

- Accounting/financial services
- Business planning for sustainability
- Communications
- Data management
- Governance
- Grantwriting/development
- Human resources
- Impact measurement and evaluation
- Information technology services
- Marketing/social media
- Strategic planning

28. What are examples of capacity-building funding requests?

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assistance/consultation in a specific organizational area
- Board development
- Consulting and staffing needs

- Cybersecurity assessments
- Development planning
- Development of a strategic plan
- Executive coaching
- Financial analysis
- Marketing plan
- Organizational assessments
- Professional development/staff training
- Program evaluation
- Succession planning
- Technical skills development to improve organizational effectiveness

29. When should an organization apply for a program grant and when should they apply for a capacity building grant?

Applicants should determine based on their needs and priorities. A capacity building request should focus on strengthening the organization. Questions can be directed to CommInvestments@mhm.org.

30. What salaries can be included in a capacity building request vs a program request (ex: development staff vs adding program staff)?

- Staff not directly connected to the program can be included in a capacity building request. Also, staff supporting the organization to increase its capacity can be included, not additional staff to expand a program.
- Consultants to support capacity building projects may be included in capacity building grant requests.

31. Can capacity building support be added to a program request?

Yes, applicants may include capacity building support in their program grant requests. Examples include a program request that includes funding for a consultant to develop a strategic plan for the organization; a contract grant writer; funding for a database.

In reviewing grant applications, MHM may fund requests in whole or in part. The capacity building line item should not exceed 20% of the total grant request

32. How is capacity building defined for the grant request?

A capacity building grant request is an investment in nonprofits' abilities to be more efficient, effective, and sustainable. It supports organizational strengthening, building upon assets to increase their impact in community and improve health equity. Capacity building is a process of working with individuals and organizations to help develop and strengthen their abilities.

33. What is the difference between a capacity building grant and capacity building services that MHM provides?

The capacity building grant is available to organizations eligible to apply for grant funding through the Annual Grant Cycle. Community Investments Capacity Building Services are reserved for funded partners.

34. What are examples of capacity building projects for grant funding?

- Accounting/Finance
- Board Development
- Communications/Marketing
- Fundraising/Development
- Governance
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Leadership
- Measurement/Evaluation
- Org Development
- Strategic Planning