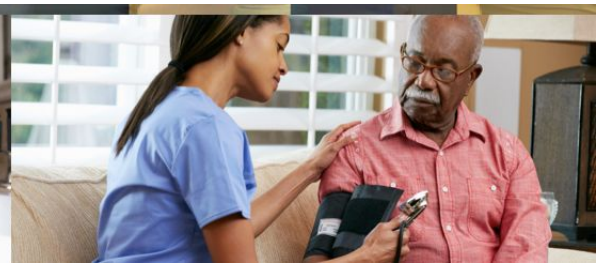




Implementation of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

House Health and Government Operations Committee
December 15, 2021



Today's Presenters

- The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Maryland Community Health Resource Commission Chair
- Jaki Bradley , Health Equity Resource Communities Advisory Committee Member
- Mark Luckner, CHRC Executive Director

Maryland Health Equity Resource Act - Policy Objectives

Health General Article, Section 19-2112

“(3)(i) The Program shall provide grant funding to:

- reduce health disparities;
- improve health outcomes;
- improve access to primary care;
- promote primary and secondary prevention services; and
- reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions.”

Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

Pathways to Health Equity Program

- Two-year grants to be issued by CHRC.
- Applicants should demonstrate self-sustainability as a HERC.
- Provides foundation and guidance to become a HERC.

Health Equity Resource Communities

- Five-year grants.
- Emphasizes longer term interventions that address SDOH:
 - Housing;
 - Transportation;
 - Employment; and
 - Food Security.

HERC Advisory Committee

Eleven members, appointed by the Governor and Presiding Officers

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair
Community Health Resources Commission and
Chair of the HERC Advisory Committee

Noel Brathwaite, PhD, MSPH, Director Minority
Health and Health Disparities, Maryland
Department of Health

Alyssa L. Brown, JD, Director, Innovation,
Research, and Development, Office of Health
Care Financing, Maryland Department of Health

Rebecca A. Altman, RN and MBA, Vice President
and Chief Integration Officer, *LifeBridge* Health

Elizabeth L. Chung, Executive Director, Asian
American Center of Frederick

Michelle Spencer, MD, Associate Chair, Inclusion,
Diversity, Anti-Racism, and Equity, Department of
Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins
Bloomberg School of Public Health

Maura Dwyer, DrPH and MPH, Former Health
Enterprise Zone Manager

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, Community
Relations and Population Health Supervisor
Mt. Laurel Medical Center

Mikayla A. Walker, MPH, Management
Consultant, ReefPoint Group

Jacqueline J. Bradley, MSN, MSS, CRNP,
Bradley Consulting, LLC

The Honorable John A. Hurson, Esq., Former
Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources
Commission

Health Equity Resource Communities Advisory Committee

At its kick-off meeting on August 11, 2021, the HERC Advisory Committee formed three Subcommittees:

Pathways RFP Design - Jaki Bradley

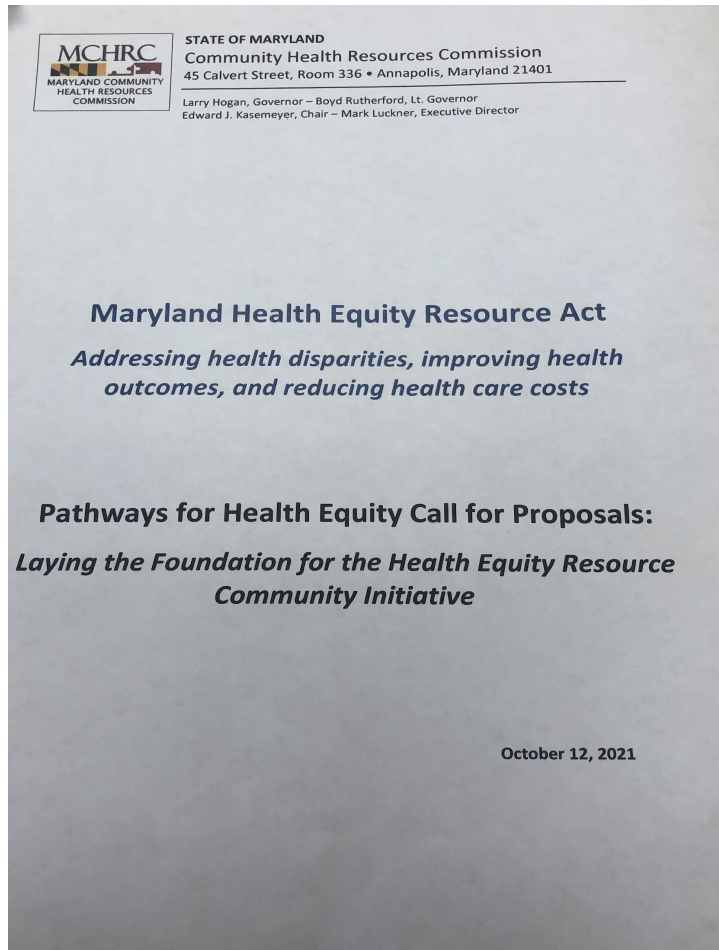
Data & Program Evaluation - Rebecca Altman

Consumer Engagement and Community Outreach -
Elizabeth Chung

HERC Advisory Committee Public Comment Period

- Conducted public meetings in August and September.
- Solicited public comment on a number of key questions.
- Public comments were reviewed and informed the development of the Pathways RFP.

Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals



- Pathways Call for Proposals released October 12.
- \$13 million in funding available.
- Applications originally due December 7 - **Revised deadline - December 13.**

MD Health Equity Resource Act

Definition of Health Disparity

“Health Disparity” means a particular type of health difference, such as a difference in rates of:

- Hypertension
- Asthma
- Substance Abuse
- Maternal and Infant Mortality
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Mental Health Disorders

Flexibility given to applicants to pick disparity(ies) in their proposals, based on local need.

HERC - Contiguous Geographic Area

1. Measurable and documented disparities and poor health outcomes.

2. Small enough to allow for incentives to have a significant impact on improving health outcomes & reducing health disparities including:
 - a. Racial;
 - b. Ethnic;
 - c. Geographic; and
 - d. Disability related disparities.

3. Has a minimum population of 5,000 residents.

Pathways / HERC Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible to apply as lead applicant:

1. Nonprofit, community-based organization;
2. Nonprofit hospital;
3. An institution of higher education;
4. Federally Qualified Health Center; or
5. Local Government Agency (i.e., Local Health Department).

CHRC & HERC Advisory Committee Public Outreach Efforts

Following the RFP release, the CHRC hosted 14 meetings. Every region of the State had an in-person and online meeting.

Location of in-person meetings across the State:

- Hagerstown
- Baltimore City
- Landover
- Cambridge
- Prince Frederick

Statewide virtual kick-off

Two “Frequently Asked Questions” virtual meetings

Virtual meeting with Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities

Pathways Proposals Received

- **40** Applications received, requesting **\$41 million** (approximately \$13 million to award).
- Applications from urban, suburban and rural communities.
- 15 Applications targeting prior Health Enterprise Zones (Baltimore City, Eastern Shore & Prince George's).

Lead Applicant Breakdown:

- Nonprofit community-based organizations - 23
- Nonprofit hospitals - 6
- Institute of Higher Education - 2
- Federally Qualified Health Center - 5
- Local Government Agency - 4

Timeline of Pathways Grant Awards

- Proposals reviewed over the next few weeks.
- Top-scoring applicants will be asked to present to full CHRC Commission in late January/early February.
- Grant award decisions will be made by the CHRC following applicant presentations.

Contact Information

For additional information:

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