



# Maryland Health Equity Resource Act Pathways to Health Equity Program November 1 and November 4, 2021

Mark Luckner, Executive Director

Maryland Community Health Resources Commission



# Maryland Health Equity Resource Act



STATE OF MARYLAND  
Community Health Resources Commission  
45 Calvert Street, Room 336 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Larry Hogan, Governor – Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

## Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

*Addressing health disparities, improving health outcomes, and reducing health care costs*

**Pathways for Health Equity Call for Proposals:**  
*Laying the Foundation for the Health Equity Resource Community Initiative*

October 12, 2021

- Pathways Call for Proposals released October 12.
- RFP was informed by Public Comments Period.
- Applications due December 7.

# Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

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## 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;
  - Food Security.

# HERC Advisory Committee

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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**, MS, 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

# Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals

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Pathways applicants need to demonstrate how:

1. The program will address each of the following five policy objectives:
  - A. Reduce health disparities (see next slide);
  - B. Improve health outcomes;
  - C. Improve access to primary care;
  - D. Promote primary and secondary prevention services;  
and
  - E. Reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and re-admissions.
2. Demonstrate how the proposed Pathways program could be “self-sustainable” as a Health Equity Resource Community.

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## Definition of Health Disparity

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“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

**“Applicants will have the flexibility to tailor their focus to address the identified needs of the proposed geographic area and target population.**  
(page 8, of the Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals)

# Geographic Definition of HERC

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Contiguous geographic area that:

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 &
  - d. Disability related disparities
3. Has a minimum population of 5,000 residents

# Pathways /HERC Eligible Entities

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The following entities are eligible to apply:

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).

 The CHRC intends to use the HERC applicant eligibility requirements for the Pathways RFP



# Partner, Partner, Partner!

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- Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop coalitions to achieve the objectives of the Act.
- Community-based organizations and other community groups are encouraged to partner with an eligible entity as the lead applicant.
- Examples of entities that should be contacted: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs).

# Key Dates

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- **October 12** – CHRC released Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals.
- **October 14** – Statewide Virtual Meeting to brief stakeholders on aspects of the Pathways RFP.
- **October 19** – First “Frequently Asked Questions” Virtual meeting. FAQ document to be posted on CHRC website.
- **Oct/Nov** – Regional Forums to engage community (In-person and virtual).
- **December 7** – Applications Due to CHRC.
- **Early February 2022** – CHRC meeting to award Pathways grants.

# Additional Information

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Pathways Call for Proposals:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx>

Regional Forum Information:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/herc.aspx>

Contact:

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