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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Maryland Community Health Resources Commission Issues Grant Funding Opportunity**

*Projects Will Serve Vulnerable Populations and Promote Health Equity*

**BALTIMORE, MD** (October 22, 2018) — The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) issued its annual Call for Proposals, which looks to support programs that will serve vulnerable populations; promote health equity and address the social determinants of health; and support community-based projects that are innovative, sustainable, and replicable. The CHRC anticipates awarding approximately $5.9 million in new grant funding this fiscal year.

The CHRC is hosting a public information call on **Tuesday,** **Oct. 30 at 10 a.m**. Interested parties can call 866-247-6034 and use 410-260-7046 for the login code. Letters of Intent are due to the CHRC by noon on **Tuesday,** **Nov. 13** and full grant proposals are due by noon on **Monday,** **Dec. 17**. Grant awards are expected to be made by the CHRC in mid-February 2019.

This year’s grant awards will prioritize the support of three types of projects: (1) delivery of essential health services, including primary/preventative care, women’s health, and dental care; (2) address the opioid epidemic through integrated behavioral health services; and (3) promote food security and address childhood and family obesity.

“The Commission looks forward to supporting projects that will expand access to critical health services for at-risk residents,” said CHRC Chairman Dr. Allan Anderson. “We look forward to awarding projects that are sustainable and replicable in communities throughout our state.”

“Grant funding provided by the Commission will drive important action and innovation in underserved communities throughout Maryland,” said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Robert R. Neall. “The Commission has worked diligently to ensure Marylanders in these communities have access to and receive high-quality health care services, and I look forward to seeing what grant programs are funded during this grant cycle.”

The CHRC looks to serve as a public health incubator, providing initial seed funding to help start new and innovative projects in underserved areas. The Commission has awarded $64.1 million to 210 grants for support projects in all 24 jurisdictions. CHRC grantees have utilized initial funding to leverage an additional $23.1 million.

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*The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission is an independent agency operating within the Maryland Department of Health. The CHRC was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2005 to expand access in underserved communities and help reduce avoidable hospital utilization through community-based intervention strategies.*

*The Maryland Department of Health is the State agency that protects Maryland’s public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected:*[*http://www.twitter.com/MDHealthDept*](http://www.twitter.com/MDHealthDept)*and* [*http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH*](http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH)*. ​*