



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

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Community Health Resources Commission issues emergency funding to address impact of COVID-19 and serve vulnerable populations
Awards will help stabilize infrastructure of Maryland's safety net providers

Annapolis, MD – The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), today released an emergency funding opportunity for eligible community health safety net providers to help address the challenges and impact of COVID-19 in Maryland.

Under this funding opportunity, which is supported by federal funding, eligible applicants will be permitted to request up to \$50,000 in emergency funding requests. Grant requests are due to the CHRC on May 14. The CHRC anticipates issuing grant awards at their next meeting, in June.

“The Commission is providing this emergency funding opportunity to support the continuation of essential health services for vulnerable residents in our state,” said Elizabeth Chung, CHRC Chair. “We commend the important and ongoing work of our state’s safety net providers who are on the front lines and delivering services during this unprecedented and challenging time.”

In addition to providing emergency funding relief for Maryland’s safety net providers, the CHRC is also enabling its portfolio of existing grantees to reallocate funding to address COVID-related expenses. Since its inception in 2005, the CHRC has issued 266 grants totaling \$77.7 million, supporting projects in all 24 jurisdictions of the state. These projects have collectively served more than 488,000 Marylanders.

“The Maryland Department of Health appreciates the CHRC’s focus on addressing the impact of COVID in our state,” said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. “We look forward to working with the CHRC and its new grantees as they provide critical health services for vulnerable populations in our state.”

The application process for the COVID-19 emergency funding opportunity will be streamlined. In fulfillment of its statutory mission, the CHRC will give emphasis for requests that clearly serve vulnerable populations, underserved, underinsured and at-risk communities and help promote

health equity. A copy of the CHRC's COVID-19 Call for Proposals may be accessed via the CHRC's website, <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx>.

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About the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission: The Maryland General Assembly created the Community Health Resources Commission in 2005 to expand access to affordable, high-quality health care services in the state's underserved communities; increase access to specialty health care services for the uninsured and low-income individuals; promote interconnected systems of care and partnerships among community health resources and hospitals; help reduce preventable hospital ED visits; and support the adoption of health information technology in community health resources. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health, and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. In addition, under legislation approved by the Maryland General Assembly in 2017, the CHRC provides staffing support for the Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers. More information about the CHRC can be found on its [website](#).