



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

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Community Health Resources Commission issues grants to serve vulnerable residents and promote health equity

Awards will address health disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic

Annapolis, MD – The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), voted to approve 35 grants totaling \$6.7 million to support innovative, replicable, and sustainable projects that serve vulnerable populations and promote health equity. These programs are projected to serve more than 63,000 residents throughout the state of Maryland.

The grants will support three types of projects: (1) chronic disease management and prevention, including interventions aligned with Maryland’s Diabetes Action Plan; (2) programs addressing the health and social needs of vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and (3) restoring the capacity of Maryland safety net providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to serve vulnerable communities.

“The Commission congratulates our new grantees for developing these important programs,” said Elizabeth Chung, CHRC Chair. “These grants will help address health disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 and further advance health equity in our state.” Since its inception in 2005, the CHRC has awarded 347 grants totaling \$85.9 million, supporting projects in every jurisdiction of the state. These projects have collectively served more than 504,000 Marylanders.

“I appreciate the Commission’s emphasis on serving vulnerable populations,” said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. “The Commission has been an invaluable partner in implementing the Diabetes Action Plan, supporting the state’s efforts to address COVID, and other population health initiatives.”

The CHRC’s RFP this year generated applications from 55 organizations, requesting a total of \$13 million in grant funding. In addition the awards made in this RFP, the CHRC also issued 46 emergency COVID-19 relief grants totaling \$1.5 million last year to support safety providers as they navigate the impact of COVID-19.

For more information about the 35 grants awarded by the CHRC in this year’s RFP or more information about the work of the CHRC, please visit their website at:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/home.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](#).