



## Health Equity and Access Grant Program Application Opportunity Release Date: September 22, 2021

### Introduction and Background

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) plans to distribute a total of \$250,000 in individual grants over two years (\$125,000 each year) to organizations seeking to increase behavioral healthcare access and advance health equity for diverse populations in Massachusetts. Organizations chosen in the first year of the grant program may have the option to renew for a second year, depending on program outcomes.

This grant cycle is a continuation of the successful 2019 – 2021 community grant cycle, where \$250,000 was awarded to four community-based organizations that initiated innovative programs to streamline access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD). Grantees used funds for projects including: implementation of mobile health and MAT services with telehealth cognitive behavioral therapy; development of an outpatient MAT program; utilizing Uber Health to mitigate transportation barriers to accessing MAT; and the adoption of software technology to increase engagement in and adherence to MAT treatment plans.

Grantees expressed their appreciation for the funding as a critical resource to help them fill service gaps and expand access. In the words of one grantee, “as our program and our community have grappled with the two converging public health crises [of OUD and COVID-19], this grant has helped us to have the knowledge and tools to bring behavioral health services where, when, and how it is needed most.”

### 2022 Grant Opportunity

For the grant cycle beginning in 2022, MBHP has chosen to pivot its focus to projects that strive to improve health disparities among people of color. These disparities are well-documented, and the COVID-19 pandemic has put a national spotlight on the impact of systemic racism on healthcare access, quality, and outcomes for individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC). While MBHP’s provider network offers high quality, accessible, culturally sensitive behavioral healthcare, we know more can and must be done to increase access and improve outcomes.

The goals of this grant cycle are to increase access to and engagement in behavioral healthcare for diverse populations as a means to improve health equity. Grants will be given to organizations with proposals that help achieve these goals.

Examples of activities that meet the goals of the grant program are ones that:

- Improve behavioral health provider workforce diversity, development, and training to advance access and health equity
- Promote technology to improve behavioral healthcare access for diverse populations
- Build or expand upon collaborations between behavioral health providers and community-based organizations. Such collaborations should increase access to and use of culturally appropriate behavioral healthcare and/or decrease stigma and encourage conversation about behavioral healthcare among diverse populations.

**Grant range:** Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with one-year budgets as low as \$5,000 or as high as \$50,000. Support for one-time events, such as fairs, festivals, and workshops that meet the goals of the grant program will be considered. Larger, ongoing projects will also be considered for funding.

*(continued)*



**Eligible activities:** Costs associated with start-up, training, education, program development, implementation, and technologies related to the grant goals.

**Ineligible activities:** Salaries, construction, large equipment, capital investments, and paying off debt are not acceptable means of spending the funding.

**Eligible applicants must:**

- Be an organization and not an individual
- Serve individuals in Massachusetts who have behavioral health needs. Examples of entities eligible to apply include, but are not limited to, behavioral health providers, school-based health centers, faith-based groups, youth-run organizations, peer-run groups, or organizations supporting the needs of special populations such as older adults or immigrants and refugees.

**Required Reporting**

MBHP will collect the following data from grant recipients to monitor the progress and success of the grant program:

1. Quarterly reporting on progress toward goal(s) and objectives as defined in recipient's grant application
2. An annual summary report that includes a compilation of outcome data and progress against grant budget
3. Other data and information as requested by MBHP

**Application Deadline: October 15, 2021**

To be considered for funding, applicants must fill out the application that can be accessed from the MBHP home page at [www.masspartnership.com](http://www.masspartnership.com). Click the link that says "download the application" in the green announcement box titled "MBHP announces health equity and access grant program."

Please submit responses to [erin.lanzo@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:erin.lanzo@beaconhealthoptions.com). Faxed or mailed applications will not be accepted.

For questions regarding the application process or program, please contact Erin Lanzo at [erin.lanzo@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:erin.lanzo@beaconhealthoptions.com).