

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

Organizations that qualify as tax-exempt under 501(c) (3) of the IRS Code or organizations that are recognized as instrumentalities of state or local government are eligible to apply. [Click here](#) for a list of eligible communities.

What projects will the foundation fund?

In general the foundation supports projects that directly benefit the HEALTH of those who live and work in one of the twenty-five MetroWest communities served by the foundation. Applicants should review the Request for Proposals describing current open funding initiatives, as they can differ each cycle.

What projects will the foundation NOT fund?

The foundation does not provide grants to individuals, nor does it provide funds for endowments, fund-raising drives and events, retirement of debt, operating deficits, projects that directly influence legislation, political activities or candidates from public office, or programs that are customarily operated by hospitals in Massachusetts. In addition, the foundation does not fund entertainment, donations, alcoholic beverages, fines and penalties, miscellaneous or contingency costs, and first-class travel.

My agency is outside of the service area, but we serve families from MetroWest communities. Can we apply?

Individual eligibility circumstances will vary. Please contact the foundation at 508-879-7625 to speak with a Program Officer to determine if your agency is eligible to apply.

How often do you accept grant proposals?

The foundation has two grant cycles per year. As a general rule, the spring Request for Proposals is announced in late winter and grant awards are made in late spring. The fall Request for Proposals is announced in late summer and grant awards are made in early winter.

How many grants do you award per cycle?

The number of grant awards varies from cycle to cycle. Since 2005, the foundation has awarded an average of 30 grants per cycle, which includes new and continuation grants.

Can we apply for more than one new grant per cycle?

Yes, applicants may submit more than one new grant proposal per cycle as long as the proposed projects are distinct initiatives.

Do you provide multi-year grants?

Yes, however in most cases the foundation will only provide funding for up to three years. Each grant category has different guidelines. Applicants should review the guidelines for each funding initiative and can contact a Program Officer to address any questions. Where multiple year requests are allowed, the amount requested must decline over each successive year.

Can we use the AGM Common Proposal Form?

No, applicants must use the foundation's application materials. All grant proposals including attachments must be submitted on-line.

Does the foundation accept proposals via the mail?

No, proposals must be submitted electronically using the online application forms found online at www.mwhealth.org. Proposals sent via mail, email or fax will not be accepted.

Is attending the Bidders Conference mandatory?

No, however we strongly suggest that you do. The conference is a great way of learning about our funding priorities and the online application process.

Are concept papers required?

Yes. We have found that applicants appreciate the ability to submit a one-page letter with a logic model and receive timely feedback before completing a full application. These concept papers allow the foundation to provide tailored guidance and direction to applicants.

Who makes the final decision regarding grant funding?

Grant proposals are reviewed by geographically designated Grants Panels or by the Distribution Committee based on the community(ies) served by the project or program. Funding recommendations are made by the appropriate Grants Panel/Distribution Committee to the foundation's Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees makes the final funding decision.

Can we submit a video or other attachments as part of our application?

No, unless requested by the foundation.

Do you share copies of successfully granted proposals?

No, we consider proposals the intellectual property of the applicant.

Can we make a presentation to the Committee?

No, however in unique circumstances grant applicants may be requested to come before the Grants Panel or Distribution Committee to answer questions about their proposal.

If funded, what are the foundation's expectations for reporting?

All grantees are required to submit timely Financial Reports and Progress Reports to remain in good standing with grantee obligations. Reports must be submitted via the foundation's website and all the reporting forms are available online. The reporting schedule begins on the program start date.

Our proposal was not funded. Do we need to wait a year before applying again?

The foundation does not have a policy requiring applicants to wait a year before applying again. Applicants whose proposals are not funded should call the foundation to receive feedback on the Committee's decision.