

# **MetroWest Health Foundation**

## **Policy on Sustainability and Continuation Funding of Grants**

### **1. General Policy**

In keeping with the mission of the Foundation, grants made by the Foundation shall encourage and enhance the *development* of ideas and programs to meet the unmet health needs of the MetroWest community while not creating *dependence* on Foundation support.

To accomplish this, the Foundation shall generally limit its support to up to three years, and will work with its applicants and grantees to help ensure that worthy programs and projects can be sustained over time without continued support from the Foundation. The Foundation may, at its discretion, invite organizations to submit proposals for longer or additional periods of funding if it deems that additional support is important to meeting the needs of the community as outlined Section 3 below.

### **2. Sustainability**

In order to ensure that *viable* programs funded by the Foundation can be sustained over time, the Foundation shall require applicants and grantees to discuss their plans for sustainability in their initial grant application. These plans shall include an analysis of potential funding sources, including the likelihood of available funding from those sources, and how the project intends to apply for or otherwise access other funding. This analysis should include available federal, state and local government support, other foundation, endowment and charitable support, including, third-party reimbursements and ongoing institutional support of the project.

Sustainability plans should also address the non-funding dimensions to sustainability, including organizational capacity, leadership, and community support of the initiative or project. The Foundation shall assist grantees to sustain their projects through the provision of training and technical assistance in the implementation of these sustainability plans.

The Foundation encourages the sustainability of projects by structuring multi-year grants to *taper* funding in each successive year of the initiative, thereby reducing the impact that the loss of Foundation funds may have on these projects.

The Foundation further recognizes that not all funded projects should be sustained. Some projects may be limited in scope, duration or are unable to reach their full potential due to other factors or circumstances.

### 3. Continuation Funding

Although Foundation grant funding is generally limited to three years, the *Foundation* may request that grantees submit applications for continued funding if, a) curtailing the program will have a detrimental impact on the health of the community and its individuals; or, b) additional time and/or support is necessary for the program to reach its intended outcomes and benefits.

In reviewing such requests, the Foundation shall conduct due diligence to identify those projects worthy of continued support. This due diligence shall weigh the following:

- a) Evidence that the program has made significant progress in meeting its goals and objectives.
- b) Evidence that the program will continue to meet an unmet health need in the community.
- c) Evidence that no other program or service is available or has the capacity to meet the needs of those currently being served.
- d) Evidence that significant program accomplishments can be obtained within a defined period of time.
- e) Evidence of ongoing community support for the project.
- f) Evidence of non-Foundation funding for the project.

From time to time, the Foundation may also initiate projects to address a particular health issue or need. Grantees selected to administer these projects may receive funding beyond three years, provided the project continues to meet the criteria listed above.

The inability of an organization to financially sustain a project **shall not** by itself constitute a reason for continuation funding.