



Grant Program Guide

The Mission: Create Lasting Health and Health Care Improvements

The John Muir/Mt. Diablo Community Health Fund (CHF) carries out a unique community benefit function for John Muir Health: distributing grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve the health and well-being of medically uninsured, underinsured, underserved, and vulnerable populations most at-risk for poor health in Central and East Contra Costa County. Our governing board's mission is to create *lasting* health and health care improvements for these individuals and communities. Our most valuable contribution has been fostering the start-up and expansion of programs and services that achieve this mission.

Funding Priorities

First Priority: Support nonprofit community-based clinics and specialty health care organizations in the development and implementation of sustainable health initiatives that:

- (1) Improve and expand access to health care for those who need and cannot afford it.
- (2) Increase the availability of health care where there are gaps in service.
- (3) Enable health care organizations to adapt to the changing health care delivery system brought on by the Affordable Care Act.

Second Priority: Because community clinics and specialty care organizations don't work alone to improve the health and well-being of their patients, we **support nonprofit social service organizations** that formally partner with community based clinics to grow sustainable complementary support services to meet the needs of patients both inside and outside clinic walls.

Types of Projects

The CHF typically supports projects in two categories: **multi-year health initiatives and annual program support.**

Health Initiatives: We define a health initiative as an organization employing new strategies or enhancing or expanding current strategies to:

- Deliver needed care and services
- Measure and document the value of its strategies
- Sustain its efforts after CHF funding has ended

Successful initiatives typically take place over a number of years and emerge from careful planning, capable implementation, and rigorous documentation of results. To receive funding, a health initiative should aim to achieve one of the following:

- (1) Provide high quality affordable primary, specialty, dental, and/or behavioral health care.
- (2) Deliver innovative wellness and supportive programs that encourage people to attain and maintain good physical and mental health. Such programs include, but are not limited to health education, case management, social support, and healthy eating and nutrition for residents of all ages.

Annual Program Support: While our preference is to fund larger multi-year health initiatives, sometimes organizations, for a variety of reasons, are not yet ready to undertake that type of effort. Therefore, we offer yearlong program support in the hope that a smaller effort will evolve into a multi-year health initiative.

Funding Process and Strategic Approach

We work proactively with leadership teams from partner organizations to improve and/or expand their services and/or to improve their organizational capacity. Our collaborative approach begins immediately. We start with a series of discussions designed to ensure the type of lasting success to which we are committed.

The initial discussion seeks to identify visionary leadership, a well-conceived strategic approach, and key program staff. We require organizational leaders to come prepared to share facts and circumstances that point to a need for action, a vision for action, and an assessment of the organization's ability to lead an effort.

Ensuing discussions explore the feasibility for action, what it would take for the organization to achieve a state of readiness, who suitable partners might be, and how to create a written business plan. CHF staff will guide leadership teams to the point where there is mutual agreement that the organization is ready to create a business plan for an initiative or program. From there, the process is as follows:

- Present and discuss the business plan in a meeting with CHF Board
- CHF Board invites proposal
- Create a formal proposal
- Execute the plan for a defined period of time
- Evaluate the planning and implementation stages
- Implement strategies for sustaining the effort

We do not have set application or proposal deadlines. We do prefer, however, that grant cycles start and end: (1) July 1 – June 30 **or** (2) January 1 – December 31.

Funding Eligibility Standards

The CHF's governing board has established the minimum standards below for all organizations interested in us funding a multi-year health initiative or annual program.

Geographic Scope: Initiatives and programs must take place within John Muir Health's service area: Central and East Contra Costa County. An organization based out-of-county must have a relevant track record and physical presence in Central or East Contra Costa County prior to seeking CHF funding.

Tax-Exempt Status: Organizations must be tax-exempt, 501(c)(3), nonprofit corporations. Corporate and tax-exempt status must have been in effect for at least a full twelve (12) months. The CHF does not use third party fiscal agents to accept and administer its grants for any purpose or on behalf of any group.

Organizational Leadership: Organizations must have in place experienced executive leadership, a full complement of highly engaged governing board members, and experienced program leadership.

Financial Stability: Organizations must be financially stable with appropriate internal financial systems and accounting staff.

Resource Development Capabilities: Organizations must have established systems and personnel dedicated to developing revenue from an array of sources and must demonstrate an ability to obtain other sources of funding to sustain programs.

We invite all inquiries, and will schedule a meeting to discuss an organization's vision, capabilities, and strategies for improving the health and wellness of medically uninsured, underinsured, and underserved populations. Please contact the Community Health Fund at (925) 941-3100 to arrange a meeting.