

Competitive Bid for Project Proposals
Local Health Department Preventing Maternal Mortality Funding
for Charles County, Maryland (October 25, 2023 - November 15, 2023)

The Charles County Department of Health, with support from the Maryland Department of Health and Maternal and Child Health Bureau, will be able to provide funding to local community non-profit organizations from September 8, 2023 – June 30, 2024. See section C below for project expectations.

Competitive project bids are currently being accepted in the area of **Addressing Preventing Maternal Mortality** in Charles County. Funding will be based on the size and quality of projects. Grant amounts range between \$200-30,000 and will vary depending on the strength of the application and its proposed activities.

A. Overview and Justification:

The Maryland Mortality Review Program (MMR) was created in 2000 and exists in statute in Health-General Article, §13-1201 through §13-1207, Annotated Code of Maryland. The purpose of the Program is to: (1) Identify maternal death cases (2) review medical records and other relevant data (3) determine preventability of death (4) develop recommendations for the prevention of maternal deaths and (5) disseminate findings and recommendations to policymakers, physicians and other healthcare providers, health care facilities, and the general public.

In 2018, there were a total of 38 pregnancy-associated deaths resulting in a pregnancy-associated mortality rate of 53.5 deaths per 100,000 live births. Of the 38 pregnancy-associated deaths, 18 were determined to be pregnancy-related, for a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 25.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. The remaining 20 deaths were determined to be non-pregnancy-related.

Recommendations from the Maryland MMR Committee and the MMR Stakeholder Group from the past three reports included the following, but are not limited to: (1) Increase provider awareness and education about interpersonal violence (IPV), substance use, and the social determinants of health (SDOH) (2) Promote universal screening for substance use, behavioral health risk, and SDOH (3) Encourage safe opioid prescribing (4) Promote interdisciplinary communication and collaboration efforts among substance use, mental health, and IPV programs with obstetric institutions and providers. To eliminate health inequities and disparities it is important to acknowledge that the rate of pregnancy-related deaths in non Hispanic Black women was 2.2 times higher than that of non-Hispanic White women, demonstrating a disparity among women of color. The number of hemorrhage deaths was nearly twice as high among Black women compared to White women. Although total numbers were

small, the leading cause of pregnancy-related death among Hispanic women was pregnancy induced hypertension. Homicide was the second leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths overall between 2010 and 2018. The number of homicide deaths among non-Hispanic Black women was 2.2 times the number among non-Hispanic White women. Non-cardiovascular medical conditions were the third leading cause of pregnancy-related death overall, with the vast majority occurring among non-Hispanic Black women. Black women experience maternal death 2.5 times greater than White non-Hispanic women in Maryland. We encourage applicants to focus on efforts that strategically intend to improve maternal care among birthing people of color. We also encourage applicants to focus on priority maternal health topic areas, including behavioral health, cardiovascular health, and interpersonal violence.

B. Community Project Goal:

Funding proposals should identify impactful activities that will focus on the development, implementation and evaluation of interventions or programs or initiatives. These activities should propose initiatives that strategically intend to improve maternal care among birthing people of color and to decrease maternal mortality in Charles County.

C. Program Requirements:

Funds should support the following types of activities (including but not limited to):

Activities to address Social Determinants of Health and health in the interpregnancy interval

- Establish and/or strengthen education and career mentorship programs for birthing people of reproductive age, especially those from low socioeconomic backgrounds
- Mitigate stress and increasing social support and mentorship among people of reproductive age, and especially those who are pregnant or postpartum
- Promote access to patient-centered services for reproductive life planning, preconception health care, and contraception
- Provide training/education on early warning signs for medical complications for pregnant or recently pregnant and postpartum people
- Strengthen interpersonal relationships and conflict resolution skills, especially among romantic partners and within families

Activities to strengthen engagement with communities impacted by maternal mortality

- Create opportunities for community education or dialog/relationship building between the healthcare system and community members/leaders

- Provide training/education on improving patient trust, particularly among individuals who identify as minorities

Activities to improve clinical care, care coordination and warm handoffs

- Create and promote pharmacy-based initiatives, such as pharmacy-based education on medication use, quality initiatives to improve adherence to medications, and reducing barriers (cost, transportation, etc.) that prevent birthing people from taking medications as prescribed
- Improve coordination and communication between community and clinical service teams by strengthening screening and referral systems
- Increase access to lactation services in the community
- Promote timely and closed-loop communication between clinical and non-clinical teams in the maternal health services infrastructure

D. Project Expectation:

Organizations must demonstrate the ability and resources to:

1. Access the population designated to be served by the project proposal.
2. Make clear action plans and track **measurable outcomes** to be reported as required.
3. Be fiscally responsible, submit project performance reports including receipts or documentation of how the funds were spent and project performance. The performance report form will be provided. The Charles County Department of Health must ensure that there is no redundancy in funds administered to community organizations for the same function.
4. Performance reports will be due on the 15th of the month. Report due dates will be January 15, 2023, March 15, 2023, and June 15, 2023.

D. Project Proposal should include:

- Letter of Interest describing your organization.
- Project Description must include:
 - o Specific project plan and implementation strategy
 - o Demographic population to be reached and why (provide justification data if available).
 - o Explanation of what the requested funds will be used for in the Narrative section & include a Project Budget page (receipts will be required).
 - o Include the cost of fees or dues needed for screening tools, project activities, curriculum content. Costs may include fees per individual to be trained, as well as material and certification costs.

Limit submission to no more than 3 – 4 pages.

Due date for submissions: November 15, 2023 by 4:30 PM

Submissions may be sent by mail or e-mail to:

Charles County Department of Health

Attn: Melanie Gardiner

4545 Crain Hwy, White Plains MD 20695

melaniea.gardiner@maryland.gov

If you have questions, please call Edith Kratzer at (301) 609-6898 or e-mail
edith.kratzer@maryland.gov

The Charles County Department of Health reserves the right to select the proposal(s) that best meet the requirements of the grant project. This project is an equal-opportunity program.



Charles County, Maryland

Preventing Maternal Mortality Non-Profit Grant

Instruction: Please complete and submit this form before or on the grant application deadline.

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail or Phone: _____

Business Activity: _____

Part One: NARRATIVE

- Provide a descriptive narrative of your proposed activities for possible grant funding. Include project development, implementation plans, initiatives and evaluation interventions.
- Projects should focus on activities to reduce disparities among birthing people of color and to reduce maternal mortality.
- Describe how you will reach these populations and how staff will provide culturally appropriate and competent education to your target population.
- Highlight any past experience(s) in reaching your target population.
- The proposed budget should be completed in Part Two: BUDGET
- Use additional pages for Narrative as necessary; however, please keep your grant application to 3-4 pages in length

Part 2 BUDGET

PROJECT(s)

Activity	Justification	Amount

SUPPORT

Item	Justification	Amount
Office Supplies		

Educational Materials		
Printing		
Mileage		
Other		
Other		
Other		

SALARY

Position	Justification	Hourly Rate	Amount

Receipts and documentation should be available for all expenditures.

Please note: Funds are subject to availability. An incomplete application will not be considered.

Part 4 Scoring Matrix

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling first come first serve based and funded based on the below scoring matrix.

*If the proposed programs and/or services meet the threshold criteria, the Review Panel will utilize the below scoring criteria for evaluation. Scoring will help determine priority of programs and/or service applications. The highest scoring programs and/or services will be recommended for funding. A minimum score of 75 is required for funding. If there are additional funds available after the initial application schedule, the application process may be reopened with appropriate notification. **Applicants may reapply if they have additional documentation to support their request.***

Criteria	Score
Qualifications of Organizations (20 points)	
Organizational experience in working with the minority communities, the medically underserved, homeless, elderly, or other vulnerable populations. (5 points)	
Organizational experience in providing education and outreach on matters related to health and human services (5 points)	
Appropriateness of roles and experience of staff or volunteers who will be involved in the project (5 points)	
Adequacy of organizational and individual cultural competency (5 points)	
Description of Project/Approach (60 points)	
Appropriateness of goals and objectives of the project (15 points)	
Adequacy of timelines for the project (5 points)	
Appropriateness of the education and outreach activities to be performed (10 points)	

Adequacy of the number of individuals to be reached and number of events proposed (10 points)	
Appropriateness of processes for training staff to conduct outreach & education (10 points)	
Adequacy of plans to achieve cultural competency and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations (5 points)	
Budget (20 points)	
Reasonableness of budget (10 points)	
Grand Total:	