

Competitive Bid for Project Proposals  
Local Health Department Preventing Maternal Mortality Funding  
for Charles County, Maryland (September 18, 2023 – September 29, 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. (5)

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- 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 bids should identify impactful activities that will focus on the development, implementation and evaluation of interventions or programs or initiatives in partnership with Charles County Department of Health. These activities will propose initiatives that will reduce disparities among birthing people of color and to decrease maternal mortality in the State of Maryland.

C. **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 in reporting back with receipts or documentation of how the funds were spent. Organizations that are currently receiving LHD Health Disparities Funding from another health department are not eligible to apply for this funding. The Charles County Department of Health must ensure that there is no redundancy in funds administered to community organizations for the same function.
4. **To submit the required Performance Reports during the grant period. Report due dates are the 15th of the next month. (Report due dates will be November 15, 2023, January 15, 2023, March 15, 2023, and June 15, 2023.)**

D. **Project Bid should include:**

- Letter of Interest describing your organization.
- Project Description must include:
  - Specific project plan and implementation strategy
  - Demographic population to be reached and why (provide justification data if available).
  - Number of people to be educated (numerical tracking method must be incorporated into the plan to track the number of people reached and number of activities, etc.)
  - Explanation of what the requested funds will be used for in the Narrative section & include a Project Budget page (receipts will be required).

Suggested Items for Non-Profit Project Bids and Budgets:

- Staffing to do the additional outreach needed to vulnerable and medically underserved populations
- Educational supplies such as brochures, visual displays
- Advertising of outreach events
- Advertising of and marketing for culturally competent/appropriate messaging surrounding Maternal Mortality and other health concerns experiencing disparities i.e., videos, posters, billboards

- Items to address the social determinants of health that are impacting Maternal Mortality during pregnancy in county residents.

Limit submission to no more than 3 – 4 pages.

Due date for submissions: September 29, 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](mailto:melaniea.gardiner@maryland.gov)

If you have questions, please call Edith Kratzer at (301) 609-6898 or e-mail [edith.kratzer@maryland.gov](mailto: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. A list of resources is provided in the attachment for assistance in building and justifying your project plans.