

## **RFP Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Why is Lahey Hospital & Medical Center (LHMC) undergoing a Community-based Health Initiative process?**

Lahey Hospital & Medical Center is replacing outdated linear accelerators and making renovations to existing space to accommodate the new equipment. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires this project to go through a Determination of Need (DoN) process. The process is used to promote health for all residents and to ensure health resources are fairly distributed across the state. The DoN process directs LHMC to dedicate 5% of the total project cost towards a Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) to help improve the health and wellbeing of the members of the community that LHMC serves.

### **2. How much funding is available?**

Between 2024 and 2027, LHMC is investing a total of approximately \$988,105.06 through its Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) for its Determination of Need (DoN) for the Radiation Oncology Project DoN in Burlington. Of that total investment, approximately \$494,052 will be allocated through this Request for Proposals (RFP) process, with the remaining funds to be allocated through a direct investment in a housing initiative.

### **3. What community will the Community-based Health Initiative focus on?**

The priority cohorts for this RFP, determined based on LHMC's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment are the following populations:

- Youth
- Older adults
- Low-resourced populations
- LGBTQIA+
- Racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse populations

In addition, organizations must currently serve individuals in or across one or more of the following cities/towns that have been specifically identified as high priority cities/towns for this RFP:

- Billerica
- Lowell
- Peabody

### **4. Who decides what health priorities LHMC should focus on?**

The LHMC Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC) is made up of leaders and local residents from LHMC Community Benefits Service Area to inform and guide the Community-based Health Initiative process. After a robust and transparent community engagement effort that drew upon information collected from secondary data and community surveys, interviews, focus groups and listening sessions as part of the 2022 LHMC Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and 2023-2025 Implementation Strategy (IS), the CBAC identified Mental Health and Substance Use as its priority area of investment for this RFP process.

## **5. What strategic focus areas will the Community-based Health Initiative focus on?**

Under the priority area of Mental Health and Substance Use, the CBAC identified improving access to community mental health and substance use services through partnerships with community-based organizations. These services are expected to impact the social determinants of health, including housing, employment, education, social environment, and the built environment as the focus for this RFP process.

## **6. Who decides where to award funds?**

Lahey Hospital & Medical Center formed an Allocation Committee made up of individuals who have disclosed any real or perceived conflicts of interest and have confirmed that they will not be an applicant for Community-based Health Initiative funding. The Allocation Committee includes LHMC staff, LHMC Department of Community Benefits representatives, residents, and local experts and representatives from the Community Benefits Service Area. The Committee is tasked with overseeing a transparent, public and competitive process for awarding funds for local strategies that address the health priorities and strategic focus areas identified by the LHMC Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC).

## **7. When will LHMC begin accepting applications for funding?**

Visit the RFP page for the latest information about applying for funding.

## **8. How are applications submitted?**

All applications must be submitted online through BILH's Community Benefits Database. To request a log-in/user id to access the database, please complete this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jZyD5F8dAD> .

## **10. Can an organization submit multiple applications?**

No, organizations can submit a maximum of one application as a lead organization. An organization can be listed as a partner in multiple applications, though organizations should consider their capacity to complete their responsibilities as partners should multiple projects receive funding.

## **11. Are applicants expected to use BILH evaluation metrics or can the organization use their own already in place?**

We will work with you to review your current evaluation metrics and discuss if any changes need to be made. This will be addressed during the planning period, during the first 1-3 months.

## **12. Is this RFP replacing the small community grants you have been providing to organizations?**

No, the CHI RFP is in addition to LHMC's annual small community grants.

## **13. Will I get an automatic confirmation email when I submit my application through the CBD?**

No. You will not get an automatic email. You will indicate the date of submission, and the form saves that date. If you reopen your application, you will see a submit date on the bottom. This indicates it was officially submitted.

