

# MA COVID-19 Community Grants

## Massachusetts COVID-19 Community Grants Program Request for Proposals (RFP) for Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations April 2021

### At-A-Glance

<b>Available Funding</b>	Total of \$184K available; we expect grants will be in the range of \$36K to \$48K
<b>Funding Period</b>	May 2021 – December 2021
<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	Massachusetts community-based Tribal and Indigenous Peoples serving and organizations serving Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders and Indigenous communities which are communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (see “Who is eligible to apply”)
<b>Eligible Activities</b>	1) Provide education to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19, including developing culturally-relevant messages and materials about vaccines, physical distancing, mask wearing, testing, and other harm-reduction behaviors and activities. 2) Engage members of their communities in conversations and education about COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, and address questions, concerns and barriers to accessing vaccines.
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<a href="mailto:COVID19Grants@hria.org">COVID19Grants@hria.org</a>
<b>Webpage &amp; Application Form</b>	<a href="https://hria.org/macovidcommunitygrants/tipso/">https://hria.org/macovidcommunitygrants/tipso/</a>

### Background

On March 17, 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the release of federal funds as part of its Vaccine Equity Initiative to increase vaccine trust, acceptance, and administration rates among priority populations. A major part of this Initiative focuses on 20 cities and towns with the greatest COVID-19 case burden, considering social determinants of health and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-equity-initiative>). These cities and towns are Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester. Recognizing that populations disproportionately impacted by COVID19, such as members of state and federally recognized Tribes and Indigenous communities, live in urban and rural communities throughout the state and experience multiple barriers to vaccine access, ensuring that these communities have access to vaccine information, vaccines, and resources to mitigate the disproportionate impact of COVID19 is also a focus.

The **MA COVID-19 Community Grants Program** (<https://hria.org/macovidcommunitygrants/>) was designed to help organizations raise awareness in their communities about best practices that people can take to stop the spread, including messaging on vaccine safety and efficacy, and ensuring physical distancing, mask wearing, and other harm-reduction practices. As part of an initial round of funding,

current awardees have been engaging in culturally- and linguistically-appropriate community outreach, communication, and education. Strategies have included engaging youth peer leaders, trusted community leaders, and those with shared lived experience to promote messages. Social and other media have been used to amplify the reach of messaging and communications.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) will extend the Massachusetts COVID-19 Community Grants Program to **Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations** serving Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples, in support of the Commonwealth's efforts to vaccinate its residents, while continuing to promote practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The goal of this program is to reduce COVID-19 infections, morbidity, and mortality among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) across the Commonwealth, as well as to support education and awareness of vaccination efforts in Massachusetts. The grants will be administered and managed by [Health Resources in Action](#) (HRiA), a non-profit public health organization that helps people live healthier lives and create healthy communities through prevention, health promotion, policy and research.

### **Program Overview - What will the COVID-19 Community Grants support?**

Funding will support community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) to:

- *Educate impacted populations, including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples, to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19, including messages (by developing culturally-relevant messages and materials) about physical distancing, mask wearing, and other harm-reduction behaviors and activities.*
- *Engage and educate impacted populations, including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples in conversations and education about COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, and address questions, concerns, and barriers to accessing vaccines.*

Funds are intended to be used to address the specific needs of Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples and the factors that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 infection. Proposed activities must complement and enhance existing efforts in the community, including state or local COVID-19 education, communications, and messaging.

**Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations** that receive a grant will also receive assistance from HRiA to support the proposed activities. This will include training, communications, and other technical assistance and support throughout the funding period.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

**Massachusetts Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving community-based organizations (T/IPSOs)** serving members of the state and federally recognized Tribes, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous communities in Massachusetts may apply for funding, with particular emphasis on the following populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19:

- Members who do not speak English, or who prefer to speak in another language

- Members who do not have access to transportation, either personal or public, or who face barriers getting to a vaccination site
- Members who do not feel comfortable receiving the vaccine in a traditional healthcare setting, such as individuals from the LGBTQ+ community
- Members with disabilities and those who have access and functional needs
- Members experiencing homelessness
- Members with mental illness and/or residents with substance use disorder

HRIA and the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) recognizes the intersectionality of these identities and lived experiences, and CBOs/FBOs should respond to the holistic needs and preferences of individuals and communities.

### What activities are not eligible?

- Research-based or pass-through projects (i.e., an organization proposes to distribute funds to other groups) are ineligible for this grant, as are the support of COVID-19 testing or food, childcare, and housing costs. Additionally, this grant is not intended to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE). We recognize there are many needs in your communities. To find additional resources related to COVID-19, please visit the following links:
  - **Philanthropy Massachusetts:** <https://www.philanthropyma.org/grantmakers-philanthropic-advisors/resources/disaster-and-emergency-relief-resources>
  - **Massachusetts Nonprofit Network:** <http://massnonprofitnet.org/nonprofit-resources/coronavirus-massachusetts-nonprofits/>

### How will this proposal be reviewed?

Your application will be reviewed by a committee who will make recommendations to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The following criteria will be considered and prioritized during the process:

- **Alignment with Funding Priorities**
  - Organizations directly reach Tribal members, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples currently most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Community Engagement**
  - Organizations have history of and ability to authentically engage community members, including the priority population(s) mentioned above.
- **Readiness**
  - Organizations demonstrate a readiness to begin outreach and engagement with the community within 15 days of award. Organizations should provide evidence of their readiness to respond to the identified need and their plan to implement approaches within the eight-month grant period through December 2021. This includes, but is not limited to, having strong community engagement approaches and staff and partnerships that can be mobilized to accomplish the work.

### What are we expected to do if we receive this grant?

If your organization is selected to receive a grant, HRIA staff will work with you and your staff/volunteers/board to:

- Assess communication- and education-related needs and strengths in your community(-ies) to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and support your efforts to identify communication (e.g., translating and adapting language, social media, messaging) and education opportunities that build on your existing activities, networks, and communication channels.
- Enhance your capacity to deliver education and/or training by providing technical assistance to your staff and/or volunteers.
- Ensure you are able to complete weekly evaluation and reporting activities to measure your progress and accomplishments.

Awardees will be required to participate in ongoing trainings and convenings as part of a larger cohort of awardees. Training dates will be shared with awardees after funding decisions are made.

### How do we submit a proposal?

Submit your proposal through the online form by **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 11:59 PM**. To submit your proposal, please click [here](#). The link leads you to a MS form which will ask you to complete:

- Basic Organization and Contact Information
- Application Questions

***This platform does NOT allow you to save and come back to your application so please save your responses somewhere else and upload into the form when you're ready to submit. For technical and logistical questions, or if your organization encounters any barriers to submitting your proposal, please contact [COVID19Grants@hria.org](mailto:COVID19Grants@hria.org). Please reference the application questions found on the next page.***

### What happens after we submit a proposal?

You will be notified of the status of your submission in early May.

### How can we learn more?

A pre-recorded **funding announcement webinar** will be posted on **April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00PM**. You can view the pre-recorded webinar at <https://hria.org/macovidcommunitygrants/tipso>.

HRiA will also host an online drop-in session that applicants can join to ask questions on **April 20, 2021 at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**. To register, [please click here](#).

HRiA will host a formal question and answer (Q&A) period for applicants about this funding opportunity. Please submit all questions regarding this funding opportunity to [COVID19Grants@hria.org](mailto:COVID19Grants@hria.org) by April 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM. We will send responses to specific questions via e-mail and responses to more generalizable questions will be incorporated into a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document by April 21, 2021 on <https://hria.org/macovidcommunitygrants/tipso/> Finally, we will continue to address additional questions sent to [COVID19Grants@hria.org](mailto:COVID19Grants@hria.org) until Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

**Massachusetts COVID-19 Community Grants Program**  
**Request for Proposals (RFP) for Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations**  
**April 2021**

**These questions are provided as reference, please submit your responses in the application form linked above**

**Nonprofit Applicant Organization(s) Info:**

- Applicant Organization/Tribe/Tribal Serving Organization Name
- Nonprofit Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)<sup>1</sup>
- Organization/Tribe/Tribal Serving Organization Contact Person
  - Name:
  - Title:
  - Address:
  - Phone:
  - E-mail:
- Organization/Tribe/Tribal Serving Organization Highest Ranking Official
  - Name:
  - Title:
  - Address:
  - Phone:
  - E-mail:

**Fiscal Sponsor Info: (if different from applicant)**

- Organization/Tribe/Tribal Serving Organization Name:
- Nonprofit Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN):
- Organization/Tribe/Tribal Serving Organization Contact Person:
  - Name:
  - Job title:
  - Address:
  - Phone:
  - E-mail:

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Requested:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizational/Tribe/Tribal/Indigenous People Serving Organization Profile** – In 2-3 sentences, how does the staff and leadership of your organization reflect the communities you propose to serve with this funding?

**Demographics** – In 3-4 sentences or bullet points, describe the population you will be **directly** serving with these funds.

**What geographical area(s) of the state are you proposing to provide outreach and other services to with this funding in response to COVID-19? (Select all that apply)**

- Boston Area
- North of Boston
- South of Boston/South Coast/South Shore
- Cape & Islands
- MetroWest
- Central MA
- Western MA

**Recognizing the intersectionality of identities, which of these among the communities you propose to serve are you also proposing to directly serve with this funding in response to COVID-19? (Select all that apply)**

- Members who do not speak English, or who prefer to speak in another language
- Members who do not have access to transportation, either personal or public, or who face barriers getting to a vaccination site
- Members who do not feel comfortable receiving the vaccine in a traditional healthcare setting, such as for example individuals from the LGBTQ+ community
- Members with disabilities and those who have access and functional needs
  - Members experiencing homelessness
  - Members with mental illness and/or residents with substance use disorder

**Proposed Approach/Activities** – In 1-2 paragraphs, describe how you will use the MA COVID-19 Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations Community Grants funds to:

- *Educate impacted populations, including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples, to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19, including messages (by developing culturally-relevant messages and materials) about physical distancing, mask wearing, and other harm-reduction behaviors and activities.*
- *Engage and educate impacted populations, including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Indigenous Peoples in conversations and education about COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, and address questions, concerns, and barriers to accessing vaccines.*

Alternatively, you are welcome to submit a one-page workplan outlining key activities and timeline.

**Budget** – Please share a brief budget outlining how funds will be spent to implement your stated activities during the grant period of May 2021 to December 2021.

**Organizational Readiness** – In 3-4 sentences or bullet points, please describe how your organization(s) is prepared to implement this approach quickly and effectively. Organizations must be able to demonstrate a readiness to begin outreach and engagement with community members within 15 days of award.

**Capacity Building Needs** – In 2-3 sentences or bullet points describe the kinds of capacity-building support and resources you think you might need to help complete the activities you are proposing? (i.e., developing educational materials, maintaining documentation for grant activities audit)

If 100% of your request cannot be met, will you be able to provide or continue providing this service?

*Please note: The response to this question will not impact your fundability.*

- Yes
- No
- Other – please explain briefly below

If we can identify other funders who may be able to support your program, can we share this application with them?

- Yes
- No

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<sup>i</sup> If another Tribal/Indigenous Community Serving Organization is your fiscal sponsor, leave this blank and ensure the information is filled in below for the sponsoring fiscal organization.