



**REDEFINING
COMMUNITY
WELLNESS**
GRANTS PROGRAM

**REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS (RFP)**

MARCH 2025



**HEALTH
RESOURCES
IN ACTION**

AT-A-GLANCE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Available Funding | Total of \$960,000 available, we expect grants to be up to \$160,000 | |
| Funding Period | April 2025 – June 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning phase: April 2025 – June 2025 (3 months, \$30,000)• Implementation phase: July 2025 – June 2026 (12 months, \$130,000) | |
| Goal of the Funding | The goal of this funding is to support tribes and nonprofits that are Native led or primarily serving Native American populations that address substance use directly or indirectly through focusing on social determinants of health (SDOH). Additionally, this funding will help build funded organizations' capacity for organizational development and sustainability. | |
| Eligible Applicants | Tribes based in Massachusetts that have a government-to-government relationship within the Commonwealth (see attachment requirements on page 8), OR Massachusetts-based organizations that are Tribal led and/or serving with 501(c)3 status or a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsorship. | |
| Eligible Activities | The goal and purpose of this initiative is to fund broad eligible activities that include a wide range of programming to address substance use and/or social determinants of health impacting substance use. In general, eligible activities are non-clinical programming to address the needs of populations (e.g., people who are unhoused, etc.) disproportionately affected by substance use. Proposed activities can address one or more of the areas listed below. See <i>Program Overview</i> below for more details. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overdose prevention, intervention, and postvention• Addressing barriers to accessing services• Addressing housing, food insecurity and other basic needs• Strengthening belonging and relationships in communities through education and support services | |
| Application Deadline | Funding info session March 12, 2025 3:00-4:00 PM Register here Drop-in office hour session March 19, 2025 2:00-3:30 PM Register here | Web & Application Form HRiA.org/RCWgrants Contacts SUDgrants@hria.org |

REDEFINING COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Funding community-led work
and building capacity for
substance use impact

BACKGROUND

Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) have inadequate access to culturally responsive programming that addresses substance use and are disproportionately affected by policies that do not consider their needs. In response to this challenge, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) has launched **Redefining Community Wellness Program's Tribal Cohort**, which puts tribal voices at the center by engaging a Community Advisory Board (CAB) comprised of BIPOC residents and organizations to inform funding decisions. The goal of this funding are:

1. To support a Tribal Cohort consisting of tribes based in Massachusetts that have a government-to-government relationship within the Commonwealth and Massachusetts-based organizations that are tribal led and/or serving with 501(c)3 status or a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsorship to address substance use in tribal communities through a wide range of programming that help improve health, wellness and quality of life for community members.
2. To build funded organizations' capacity to support their organizational development and sustainability.

In addition to funding, selected tribes and organizations will participate in capacity building trainings, receive technical assistance and individualized support in working with Tribal Technical Assistance Leads, and participate in a learning community.

Redefining Community Wellness Program's Tribal Cohort is administered and managed by [Health Resources in Action \(HRiA\)](#), a non-profit public health organization working to improve and reimagine public health, by connecting, consulting and collaborating to solve complex challenges of access and equity in our health and social systems.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What will the grants support?

This funding is intended to address the specific needs of tribal communities and the factors that put them at risk for substance use disorder. The funding will support tribes based in Massachusetts and Massachusetts based organizations that are Native led and/or primarily serving to provide programs addressing the impact of substance use. Proposed programs do not need to directly focus on substance use but can address social determinants of health (SDOH), which influence substance use. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)'s Healthy People 2030 initiative organizes SDOH into five domains:

- **Economic Stability:** The ability to afford health-supporting purchases, such as food and housing
- **Education Access and Quality:** The ability to obtain a high-quality education
- **Health Care Access and Quality:** The ability to obtain high-quality health care services
- **Neighborhood and Built Environment:** The ability to live safely and avoid danger
- **Social and Community Context:** The ability to have positive relationships with people around us

Proposed programs can be existing or to be developed, and address one or multiple areas below. Examples are included below for illustrative purposes, and other activities can be proposed.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION — Providing non-clinical services that address overdose prevention, intervention, and postvention including recovery support.

Activity examples:

- Overdose prevention education and training including how to use and access Naloxone and Fentanyl test strips
- Grief services for families and children who lost loved one to substances
- Culturally responsive harm reduction services
- Holistic intervention care for people who use substance use (e.g., yoga, massage therapy, acupuncture, etc.)

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES (LANGUAGE ACCESS) - Providing non-clinical services in languages other than English addressing substance use and/or SDOH.

Activity examples:

- Workforce development services in multiple languages
- Tribal-based recovery support services in native languages
- Substance use services for deaf and hard-of-hearing communities
- Classes for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)/English as a Second Language (ESL) accessible for immigrant/refugee communities including a curriculum on substance use education

ADDRESSING HOUSING AND FOOD INSECURITY, AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS - Support to secure housing including emergency housing, attain vital document, access food, utility, or other basic needs assistance.

Activity examples:

- Community-based resource navigation including housing and other basic needs
- Programs to support people who are leaving the substance use treatment or re-entering (leaving incarceration)
- Support for new lodges for women and men
- Programs for people experiencing homelessness in basic needs (e.g., hair, nail, and other hygiene needs), including mobile shower unit
- Services supporting sex workers
- Community garden for families living with

- substance use disorder
- Community fridges and open pantry
- Transportation support for services or care needed
- Leadership development and job readiness training for people in recovery
- Training on financial literacy and economic empowerment

STRENGTHENING BELONGING AND RELATIONSHIPS IN COMMUNITIES (CULTURE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING)

- Providing community-led education, support services, or programming in various ways to improve health, wellness, and quality of life to promote community building and connection.

Activity examples:

- Indigenous language preservation program
- Cultural programming provided by tribal organizations
- Support services to help individuals with re-entry into culture and community
- Training barbers and hair stylists on substance use and available resources
- Youth enrichment and mentorship program offering athletic and recreational activities
- Art program to focus on harm reduction and activism
- Gender-specific/affirming support providing self-care, domestic violence prevention
- Peer support groups or drop-in services to provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ people to address substance use
- Program to provide self-care and respite for parents
- Support to families of loved ones who are incarcerated

The funds can support hiring of new staff for the proposed program including recruitment, job posting, sign-on bonus, and job training.

Funded organizations will also receive assistance from HRiA to support the proposed services/activities. This will include training, communications, and other technical assistance and support throughout the funding period.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW (CONT.)

Who is eligible to apply?

Massachusetts-based tribes with a government-to-government relationship with the Commonwealth, non-profit 501(c)3 organizations or groups with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor that are Native-led and/or are primarily serving Native American populations. Organizations should serve the following population(s) disproportionately experiencing negative impacts of substance use:

- Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American, and other people of color
- People who do not speak English, or who prefer to speak in another language
- People with disabilities
- People experiencing homelessness
- People who identify as LGBTQ
- People experiencing re-entry (formerly incarcerated)

What activities are not eligible?

Clinical services for substance use treatment, research, or pass-through funding (i.e., an organization proposes to distribute funds to other groups) are ineligible for this grant. While we recognize the need for additional funding for treatment services, this grant focuses on other areas that address substance use but haven't been widely funded through BSAS.

What is the funding period?

The funding period will be 15 months from April 2025 to June 2026 with two phases:

- 1. Planning phase** from April 2025 to June 2025 (3 months). Tribes and nonprofits primarily serving Tribal populations will receive training and support to build their capacity in order to implement proposed activities. During this phase, grantees are expected to develop a work plan from July 2025 - June 2026, with support from HRiA.
- 2. Implementation phase** from July 2025 to June 2026 (12 months). Grantees will implement proposed activities based on the implementation workplan they developed. Training, individualized assistance and support will continue to be provided by HRiA. Grantees will also have opportunities to connect with other funded organizations in the cohort to discuss their learnings.

How will this proposal be reviewed?

Your application will be reviewed by a committee who will make recommendations to BSAS. The following criteria will be considered during the review process:

- **Alignment with funding priorities**
 - Organizations directly reach priority populations most impacted by substance use through the areas of work specified in this request for proposal (RFP).
 - **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 planning for engagement with the community within 15 days of award. That will include their readiness to participate in capacity building training and support based on their need and apply the learning in order to successfully create and implement their plan.
 - **Commitment**
 - Organizations demonstrate their commitment to addressing substance use challenges in the communities. The organizations do not necessarily have to provide substance use services directly but have to show their commitment to be part of this program and have the shared goal of addressing substance use and social determinants of health.
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What are we expected to do if we receive this grant?

If your tribe or organization is awarded funding, HRiA will work with you and your staff/volunteers/board to complete:

- **Reporting** - Grantees will remain in communication with HRiA throughout the funding period to provide feedback, success stories, lessons learned, and status updates. Grantees will submit quarterly evaluation reports that measure their progress and accomplishments, and quarterly financial expenditure reports.
 - **Capacity Building** - Throughout the funding period, HRiA will provide opportunities to build capacity of grantees, including training, technical support and assistance. Grantees are required to participate in trainings and convenings as part of this funding program. Training dates will be shared with grantees after funding decisions are made.
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How do we submit a proposal?

Submit your proposal through the online application portal which you can access on RCW's website at HRiA.org/RCWgrants **by Thursday April 3, 2025 11:59 PM**. The website leads to an online portal which will ask you to complete:

- Basic organization and contact information
- Application questions
- Attachments:
 - If applying **as a tribe** in Massachusetts with a government-to-government relationship, please upload 1) your federal final determination letter for acknowledgement cover page or executive order from commonwealth, 2) Tax Exemption form, 3) a budget using our template provided, 4) W-9 form.
 - If applying as a Native-led and serving primarily Native American populations **non-profit** or **fiscally-sponsored organization**, please upload 1) your 501(c)3 Tax Exemption form, 2) a budget using the template provided, 3) W-9 form.

Please create your account in order to submit your proposal. To return to an already started application, visit your [Account Page](#). For technical and logistical questions related to accessing the online grantmaking portal, or if your organization encounters any barriers to submitting your proposal through the portal, please contact SUDgrants@hria.org.

What happens after we submit a proposal?

You will be notified of the status of your submission by mid-late April.

How can we learn more?

If you have questions about the application process, please contact SUDgrants@hria.org.

HRiA will also host online sessions that applicants can join to learn about this opportunity, ask questions, and gain skills to apply.

Funding info session + Questions & Answers (Q&A)

March 12, 2025
3:00-4:00 PM
[Register here](#)

Drop-in office hour session to answer questions

March 19, 2025
2:00-3:30 PM
[Register here](#)

**Substance use/SDOH 101
workshop**
[Watch video](#)

Grant writing workshop
[Watch video](#)



**REDEFINING
COMMUNITY
WELLNESS**

REDEFINING COMMUNITY WELLNESS GRANTS PROGRAM

Request for Proposals (RFP) April 2025 – June 2026

Due: Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 11:59 PM

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

Applicant Info:

- Applicant Tribe or Organization Name
- Tax ID or Employer Identification Number (EIN) of lead organization
- Organization's Contact Person (project lead – name, job title, address, phone, email)
- Organization's Highest Ranking Official (name, title, address, phone, email)

Fiscal Sponsor Info: (if different from applicant)

- Organization Name
- Tax ID or Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Organization Contact Person (name, job title, address, phone, email)
- Organization's Highest Ranking Official (name, title, address, phone, email)

Project Title: _____

Amount Requested \$ _____

Up to \$160,000 per tribe/organization: \$30,000 for the planning phase; \$130,000 for the implementation phase.

Populations Served - What priority population(s) are you proposing to directly serve with this funding in addition to BIPOC? (Select all that apply)

- People who are in recovery or currently use substances
- People who do not speak English, or who prefer to speak in another language
- People with disabilities
- People who identify as LGBTQ+
- People who are unhoused
- People who are formerly incarcerated

Areas of Work Proposed - What area(s) of work are you proposing with this funding?

(Select all that apply)

- Addressing overdose prevention, intervention, postvention
- Addressing barriers to accessing services
- Addressing housing and food security, and other basic needs through resource navigation
- Strengthening belonging and relationships in communities

Geography - What cities/towns are you proposing to directly serve with this funding?

Have you applied for a funding opportunity from the Bureau of Substance Addition Services (BSAS) at the MA Department of Public Health before? *Please note: This will not disqualify you from this funding opportunity.* (Yes/No)

Organizational Profile - In 2-3 sentences, how do the staff and leadership of your organization reflect the communities you propose to serve with this funding?

Demographics - In 1 paragraph or a list, tell us about the population you will be directly serving with these funds (e.g., LGBTQ tribal youth). Please tell us if this is a new population you plan to reach.

- How are the population(s) you are proposing to serve affected by substance use?

Proposed Approach/Work - In 1-2 paragraphs, tell us about your current work and your general vision for how you will use these funds to do work in the areas described in the **Program Overview** section.

- Please tell us what specific issues/gaps you are trying to address for the populations you described in the Demographics section.
- Please tell us how your proposed work will serve the populations you described in the Demographics section.

Organizational/Program Readiness - In 1 paragraph or a list, please describe how you plan to reach and engage your proposed population(s) effectively. Your description may include relationships currently established and plan to build on and/or organizations you plan to engage.

Capacity Building Needs - In 2-3 sentences or bullet points, describe the types of capacity building trainings and support that would help you implement your proposed activities. It may include building organization or staff capacity. (This information will inform the capacity building services we will provide.)

If 100% of your funding request cannot be met, will you be able to provide the proposed work with necessary adjustment? *Please note: The response to this question will not influence whether you get funded.*

- Yes
- No
- Other - please explain briefly