

Capacity Strengthening Initiative Grant Review Process Summary

MEMO TO APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS | MAY 2024

The Minnesota Department of Health's Center for Health Equity previously released a request for proposals (RFP) for the Capacity Strengthening Initiative (CSI), a grant program established to empower and uplift the ability of community organizations to receive state funding that is focused on improving the health and well-being of Minnesotans.

The initiative focuses on helping community and faith-based organizations that serve people of color, American Indians, LGBTQIA+ communities, and people with disabilities.

The grant application period closed on November 20, 2023. The community review process began in 2024. The process engaged more than 80 community members and partners in the review of applications. The Commissioner of Health made final funding decisions in February 2024 based on community recommendations, then all applicants were notified.

We would like to offer summary data about the applications and the review process. If applicants have additional questions, they are welcome to contact the Center for Health Equity at ommh@state.mn.us or 651-201-5813.

Funding Requested

The total funding requested by all applicants was **\$27.35M**. Total funding available is **\$1.832M**, which consists of general funds reserved for Capacity Strengthening Initiatives (CSI) to better equip and prepare community-based organizations for success in procuring grants and contracts.

General Funds (State Funds)

Amount Available = \$1,832,000

Amount Requested = \$27,350,000

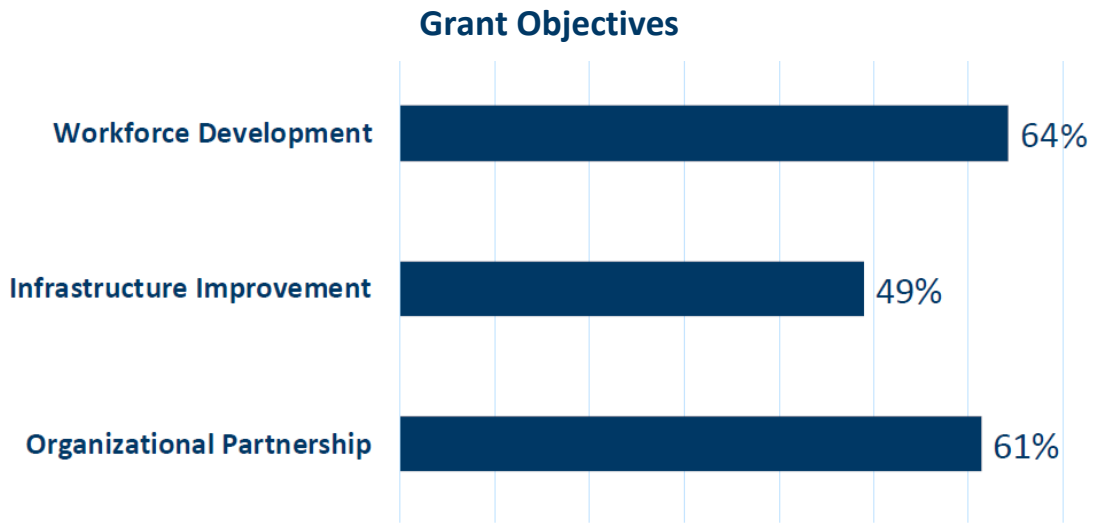
Applicants

MDH received **300 applications**. 291 applications were deemed eligible and complete and were reviewed by the community review committee.

Grant Objectives Areas

The graph below (Figure 1) shows the various priority grant objectives of focus among the applicants. Many applicants indicated that they would address more than one priority.

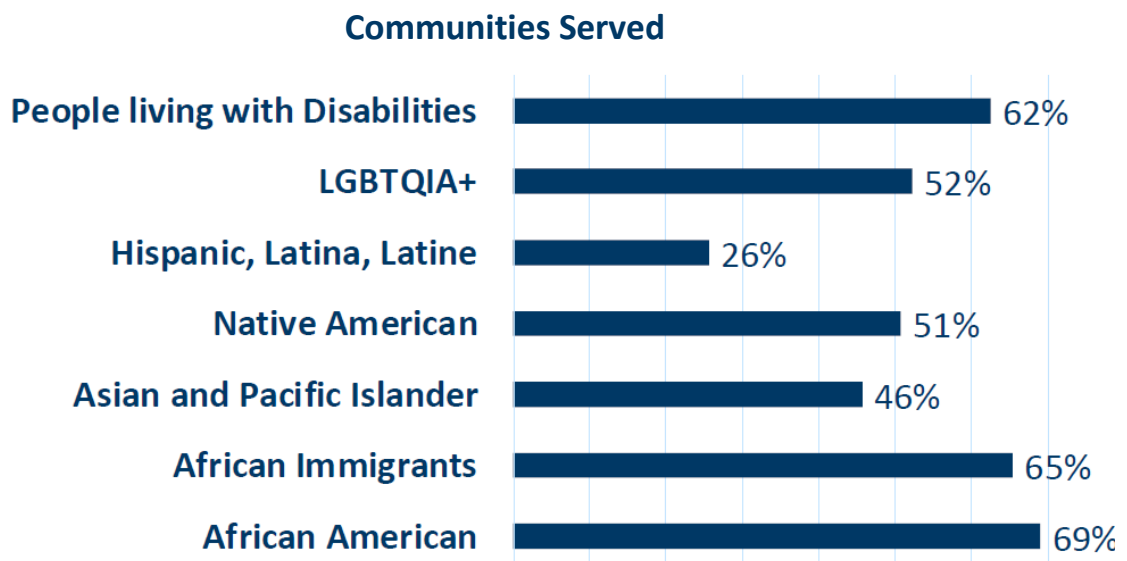
Figure 1: Selected Grant Objectives



Race and Ethnicity

Based on applicants’ descriptions of the primary racial/ethnic groups to be served by their proposal, the 300 applicants were categorized into seven categories in order to assess racial/ethnic groups: African American, African Immigrants, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latine, LGBTQIA+, and people living with disabilities. The graph below (Figure 2) shows the breadth of racial/ethnic groups to be served among applicants. Many applicants indicated that they would serve more than one racial/ethnic group.

Figure 2: Racial/Ethnic Groups Organizations Serve



Review Process

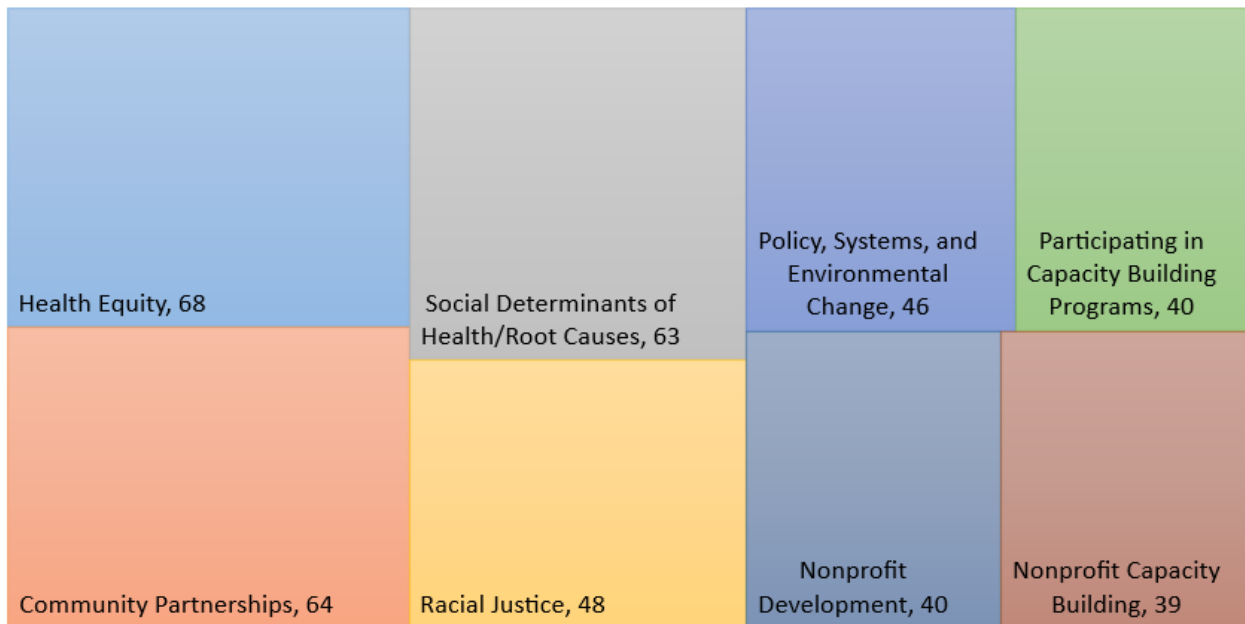
Community Review Committee

MDH received more than 86 applications to participate in the review process for roles as a reviewer, facilitator, or note taker. MDH selected and trained around 80 reviewers, facilitators, and note takers. Below is a summary of demographic information for the reviewers who participated in the review process. Note that people hold - and reported - intersecting identities.

- **55%** of reviewers identify as people of color and/or American Indians.
- **20%** of reviewers identify as LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, plus).
- **21%** of reviewers identify as having a disability.

Selected reviewers identified lived experience and/or expertise in the following areas:

Figure 3: Reviewers’ Experience and Expertise (n=86)



Review Team and Scores

Reviewers were divided into 20 review teams. Each of the twenty teams reviewed between fourteen to fifteen applications. In addition to offering funding recommendation for each application, reviewers individually scored each application out of a total 100 possible points. Each applicant’s final score was based on the **average score** of all team members who reviewed the application. Of the eligible applicants:

- 27 applications received an average team score of ≥ 90 (9%).
- 104 applications received an average team score between 80-89.9 (36%).
- 160 applications received an average team score of ≤ 79.9 (55%).

Finally, MDH balanced the review teams’ recommendations with other factors including, but not limited to: Review team scores, geographic distribution of services, representativeness of populations served, and total funding available.

Selected applicants

Grantee	Geographic Area(s) Served
A Place For You	Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
All Nations Rise	Tribal Communities in Minnesota, urban & rural
Be Meditation Group	Hennepin and Ramsey County
Beyond the Dance Network	Saint Paul and Minneapolis
Community Junction	Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center or Hennepin County
Empowering Kids Perham	Otter Tail, Wadena, and Becker Counties
Envision Communities	City of Minneapolis
Hope Dental Clinic	East Metro (Ramsey, Washington, and Dakota counties)
Korean Adoptees Ministry Center	Seven Counties of the Metro and greater Minnesota
MAD DADs of Minneapolis	North and South Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center
Metro Youth Diversion Center	Twin Cities Metro Area
Mewinza Ondaadiziike Wiigaming	Beltrami County, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake Nation, and White Earth Nation
Mi CASA MN	Scott and Carver County
Minnesota Deaf Muslim Community	Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and surrounding suburbs
Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Program	Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
Seed Community Fund	North Minneapolis, and the Northwest suburbs
Transforming Families	Minneapolis, St. Paul, Eagan, and Mahtomedi
United Hmong with Disabilities	Twin Cities
Upstream Arts, Inc.	Twin Cities
Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment	Twin Cities
Women's Wellness and Parenting Support Center	Twin Cities and metro areas including greater Minnesota

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5813.