What's the project?

Grant RFP Equity Examples and Resources: a guide to assist MDH grant programs in fulfilling state requirements and achieving greater equity in grant-making.

The guide includes sample request for proposal (RFP) language, questions to ask grant applicants, and scoring criteria, as well as a list of related resources.

This resource is now part of the MDH Digital Grants Guide. Find it here.

Why is it important?

This resource helps MDH grant programs meet state requirements for diversity and inclusion in grant-making (grants management policies 08-02 and 08-03).

More importantly, this guide encourages grant programs to prioritize equity. It equips programs with adaptable language, examples and resources to make it easier to emphasize equity in grant-making.

How did you accomplish it? Who were your partners?

The establishment of the MDH Equity and Grants Work Group made this work possible. Cross-pollination from multiple MDH programs enriched the guide.

The idea for this project came from listening sessions with community members. Community participants ranked equity language in RFPs as one of their top three priorities for equity in MDH grant-making. Work on the guide was conducted internally, with partners from across MDH.

Lessons learned

We learned more about the grant-making process at MDH and the challenges of creating a resource that can be used agency-wide.

The framework of the MDH Equity and Grants Work Group and our supervisors' support were essential to creating this resource. It was an example of MDH responding to a community request by developing an appropriate structure and dedicating staff time.

Results and next steps

We hope that more grant funding will be given to organizations that are advancing equity by addressing social determinants of health and working closely with impacted communities. On a related note, we hope that more organizations funded by MDH will advance equity through their work.

The next steps are to evaluate the guide's usefulness and effectiveness and incorporate additional examples from MDH programs that have used the guide.

If you use the Grant RFP Equity Examples and Resources guide, please share your experience and contribute to organizational learning on this topic. Email your comments, suggestions and lessons learned to Health.GrantManagers@state.mn.us. The MDH Grant Coordinators will compile feedback and share it with the Equity and Grants Work Group.

Team members

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Sample Scoring Criteria for Grant Applications

- Leadership and program staff reflect communities served

- Collaboration with impacted communities on proposal development, implementation and evaluation

- Work plan and/or logic model showing how activities address inequities

- Data, cultural considerations, lived experience and/or other evidence that methods are effective in target communities

- Community partners appropriately compensated for time and expertise

Excerpt from Sample Scoring Criteria section of Grant RFP Equity Examples and Resources