



Date: August 23, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Health Equity Community Projects

In early 2022, the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) developed an Equity Investment Framework (Framework) for the Long Beach Recovery Act (LB Recovery Act) funds related to health equity as well as future community investment opportunities (Attachment A). This Framework strengthens and aligns with Goal 4 of the [Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative](#) which uplifts strategies to "improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism." The Framework was applied to the design and implementation of the second round of Health Equity Community Projects Request for Proposals (RFP) which opened on August 9, 2023. This memo serves as an overview of the newly released Health Equity Community Projects RFP.

The Health Department seeks to partner with community organizations to implement programs that address the systemic barriers and racism that created the inequitable differences seen locally throughout the pandemic and address the impacts of COVID-19 in the most at-risk, historically underserved, and under-resourced communities in Long Beach. Selected community organizations will receive funding to engage in key health activities in one of the below categories:

- Mental Health Supports or Trauma-Informed Responses
- Parent and Child Health
- Chronic Disease Management and/or Health Education and Outreach
- Physical Activity and Engagement
- Safe Neighborhoods and Violence Prevention
- Economic Inclusion and Resiliency

Detailed definitions and examples of each category are provided within the RFP.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on specific communities within Long Beach, particularly identified in the hospitalization rates for COVID-19. In 2021 and 2022, the Health Department conducted data analyses to identify the risk factors most likely associated with hospitalizations due to illness from COVID-19 as well as the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Long Beach. The analysis determined that death or hospitalization from COVID-19 has been concentrated inequitably in regions of West, Central, and North Long Beach and within communities that are primarily Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latin/a/o/x, or Southeast Asian.

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Additional community engagement was undertaken as part of this analysis, along with a review of previous City plans such as the Framework for Reconciliation and the Health Department's Strategic Plan, to address systemic racism and barriers facing these groups. Input from the Black Health Equity Collaborative, Cambodian, Filipino, and Pacific Islander youth focus groups, and the Mi Vida Cuenta Latinx Health Initiative were all guiding influences in the development of this funding opportunity.

Last year, the Health Department selected and awarded over \$3 million in funding to support community organizations through the first round of the Health Equity Community Projects program. After a thorough review process, 21 projects were selected to receive funding. The selected projects address factors such as social and economic stability, systemic barriers, and racism that contribute to a health condition and work to improve the outcomes of that condition. The projects all focus on neighborhoods and communities that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible organizations are encouraged to submit proposals through the City's Vendor Portal, Long Beach Buys, by 5:00 p.m. on September 20, 2023. An information session will be held on August 23, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., more information, including specific details related to project scope areas, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, and submission instructions can be found on Long Beach Buys. The City has also developed an instructional video on the registration process.

This program is made possible by the LB Recovery Act, a plan to fund economic and public health initiatives for Long Beach residents, workers, and businesses critically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this RFP and the prior Health Equity Community Projects solicitation in 2022, more than \$4 million in funding has been allocated to support Healthy and Safe Communities, which includes prioritizing investing in community organizations that have knowledge and expertise in serving communities most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional information about the LB Recovery Act is available at www.longbeach.gov/recovery.

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