

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: My organization has a community-identified priority, but we do not know what ARPA resources are available or how to access them? Is this opportunity a good fit for where our community is right now?

Answer: Yes, this fund is a good fit for organizations that understand community priority but are early learning about ARPA resources. EHF is working to improve access to ARPA policy guides and funding opportunities. This will come in the form of technical assistance with facilitators, grant writers, and policy analysts.

Question: May our non-profit organization or small business submit multiple applications for different projects?

Answer: Yes, there is no limit to the number of applications your non-profit or small business can submit. It is possible that some applicants will be funded for multiple projects. However, we intend to serve as many diverse and distinct communities as possible. We anticipate that this will be a competitive process, and not all requests will be funded.

Question: Given that the applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, when can I expect to hear back on the results of our request.

Answer: You can expect to hear back from us on the status of your request within four weeks from submission. Some responses will be sooner and others later in that four-week timeframe, given that applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Question: What types of projects are most likely to be funded.

Answer: Applications will be reviewed based upon the priorities outlined on page four of this Call for Applications.

Question: We are a large mainstream organization doing work on behalf of the BIPOC communities. Are we eligible to apply?

Answer: Technically, yes. There is no official limit to the size of eligible organizations. However, this fund is designed to attract resources to historically disadvantaged communities by building the capacity of grassroots efforts where leadership is reflective of the community served.

Question: As a technical assistance provider or consultant, may I apply for support for my business?

Answer: Technically, yes. Small businesses are eligible entities. However, the proposed project must align with the fund priorities as identified in this Call for Applications. This means that the work has to support a community-identified priority, be in partnership with the community, and work to attract ARPA resources to priority populations.

Contact these folks with questions:

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Definitions of Frequently Used Terms

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 – This is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package designed to facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The nearly \$2 trillion price tag makes this economic rescue legislation one of the most expensive in U.S. history. It is one part of President Biden's Build Back Better plan, which also includes the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan.

Capacity Building - The process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, strategies, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.

Community – For this project, we would invite applications from a group or organization which identifies with a defined community. For us, community means a group with a shared sense of identity and belonging, and possibly of history and culture. A community can be defined by geography, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender conformity, or other shared lived experience. Our priority will be on communities that have been under-supported by systems in our region and have been subject to persistent health inequities.

Fiscal Sponsor – A non-profit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to another entity to provide public benefit to a community. This sponsorship must be codified through a formalized agreement outlining the terms of the relationship and the services which will be provided.

Health equity – A state of being of a community or collection of communities that represent a self-determined sense of health and vitality for all of its members. A mindset within these communities that we are better together, that we can build greater health by working together, and that health and power are expansive when held in relationship and collaboration. A system of equilibrium and balance between and amongst these communities that assures no one community falls through the cracks or is persistently less likely to have their needs met by the very systems that should be nurturing and supporting our continued health.

Health inequities – The presence of disparate health outcomes between a community and the predominant community in the region. To measure health inequity in our region, we typically use the average in the same region as a comparison or benchmark. Depending on what demographic you are focusing on - race, gender, religion, income, sexuality, urban/rural - you might choose a different comparison or benchmark based on the predominant community.

Historically Disadvantaged Community - Groups that have been socially, economically, or educationally underprivileged by past discriminatory laws or practices.

Inland Northwest – For this project, we define the Inland Northwest as the seven counties of Adams, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman, and the lands of the Colville Confederated, Kalispel, and Spokane Tribal Nations.