

Q: Are the RFP information session slides and webinar available?

A. Yes, the slides and recorded webinar are posted on our [website](#).

Q: I believe that some information was shared quite some time back about the three areas of justice and there may have been some more information about what each category encompasses and perhaps how the categories were arrived at. Is there somewhere I could get more detailed information on this?

A. Yes, you can find the information [here](#): This link can also be found on page 5 of the [RFP instructions document](#).

Q: How does this funding amount compare to previous years planning grant amounts? More, less, stable?

A. The Greater Minnesota Continuum of Care (CoC) grant and this Statewide Strategic Plan Planning grant are not related and are one-time funding opportunities. Eligible applicants and activities for both grants are also different. The total amount of the grants, however, were similar. The Greater Minnesota Continuum of Care grant was \$300,000, and this Statewide Strategic Plan Planning grant is \$350,000.

Q: Are direct payments to participants (stipends) included as an eligible cost?

A. Direct payments (stipends) to participants are eligible under this grant. As in any expense, you will need supporting documents for this option. Add this item to the 'Other' category in the Budget worksheet.

Q: I'm confused about how we are supposed to write a workplan for a plan that doesn't exist. Can you explain?

A. At this point, there is a direction from the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) to focus on housing, health, and racial justice. This RFP is asking you to describe how the work you are doing and plan to do at a local level moves toward housing, health, and racial justice for people experiencing homelessness. You can describe what action you are currently taking and the actions you plan to take to move toward justice in these areas.

Q: Can you elaborate on the frequency and duration of the state meetings to design and implement the next strategic justice-orientated plan? It will be important that we dedicate staff time to participate and need to know the commitment for those meetings to calculate that in our request.

A. The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homeless (MICH) is beginning to work with a consultant firm and a group of consultants with lived experience of homelessness to begin the first phase in the process to develop a justice-oriented plan. The first phase is focused on defining what housing, health, and racial justice mean for people experiencing homelessness, with the goal of working collaboratively with partners across the state and

those most impacted. The first phase will launch this spring and the work of justice-oriented plan will continue throughout the term of the grant. There are opportunities for people interested in being more regularly involved in ongoing workgroups. The frequency of the workgroups has not been finalized, but meetings could be as frequent as twice per month. Additionally, there will be opportunities for others who are interested to weigh in throughout the process at larger meetings and webinars, as the initiative moves forward.

There will be a second phase of work focused on actions and next steps, but that will happen after the first phase that is focused on defining housing, health, and racial justice for people experiencing homelessness. We are intentionally working at trying not to get ahead of the process and instead let the process and next steps be driven by the broader group of stakeholders.

Q: Since this is replacing our previous funding and demands of CoC planning continue to increase, are there efforts to request additional resources from the legislative surplus to help ensure we are funded at a sustainable level? Our current work is underfunded, and this seems to be adding to the work planning engagement at the state level, without a clear definition of the time commitment.

A. We cannot guarantee that there will be additional funding other than what is included in this RFP.

Q: Beyond CoCs, what other entities are invited to apply?

A. Federally recognized tribes (or tribally designated housing entities) within the state of Minnesota are also eligible to apply.

Q: Does this funding cover required activities to bring in HUD CoC funding, such as coordinating and writing the NOFO? Conducting the PIT? Coordinating HMIS? Overseeing Coordinated Entry? Supporting HUD CoC grantees?

A. Any activities that would be needed and helpful to advance housing, health, and racial justice in connection with statewide efforts may be covered. The justice-oriented goals provide overarching direction that will help you plan and implement local/regional strategies and design services and practices. Applicants can demonstrate ways to improve and develop the current local systems (including governance, point in time count (PIT), or other needs assessments, marketing and outreach, collaborative partnerships, Coordinated Entry, and other homeless response systems, data collections, evaluation, etc.) to reduce disparities, while also proposing other new initiatives. The work is meant to be coordinated with work that is already in place and in planning, but past work or general CoC work that are not advancing housing, health, and racial justice will not be covered.

Q. Does this plan signal a change in how MICH and state programs will engage with local partners? Is this a commitment of engagement from MICH and state programs?

A. While the connection and engagement over the last two years have looked different than previously, we continue our commitment to engage with local partners. There are certain parts of work that have a greater connection, such as new coordination efforts with health

departments these past few years. We are looking for these unique opportunities to expand efforts to reach those most affected by housing, health, and racial injustice.

Through the planning process to develop a justice-oriented plan, MICH and state programs are committed to partnerships with local communities. We cannot do the work to prevent and end homelessness and move toward housing, health, and racial justice without collaboration among all partners. The focus of this work is on connecting to those closest to the issue and the desire to engage more directly with local partners. This is an opportunity for you to help connect the people in your community who are already engaged in this work and those who should be involved. The goal is to have a collaborative process and build something together that can be meaningful and impactful.

Q. Will the planning process be one-way or two-way communication?

A. It will be two-way communication. The goal is to build a plan that collaboratively involves partners across the state instead of involving partners in a plan that has been predetermined by the state.

Q. The Statewide Strategic Plan Planning Grant application does not seem to limit how long our essay answers can be. Can you provide any guidance on how long our essay responses should be in our Statewide Strategic Plan Planning Grant application?

A. The application must be submitted using the program application [here](#). On page 9 of the Application Instructions (which is linked on the application and also found on our [website](#)), the Checklist Section outlines the page limit, which is a maximum of 10 pages. There is not, however, a word limit for each question. The total number of pages for the application must be 10 or fewer. We encourage applicants to provide sufficient, concise information relevant to their proposal.

Q. The Statewide Strategic Plan Planning Grant application references ‘housing, health, and racial justice.’ What is the definition of ‘housing, health, and racial justice’ that you want applicants to use?

A. In May 2021, the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) approved the framework helping define housing, health, and racial justice. More information can be found at https://www.mnhousing.gov/get/MHFA_257200 or linked at ‘state plan priorities’ in the [RFP instructions document](#) [page 5]. The first phase is focused on defining what housing, health, and racial justice mean for people experiencing homelessness, with the goal of working collaboratively with partners across the state and those most impacted by the issue. The phase will launch this month (February) and continue through the spring and early summer. For this RFP, you have the opportunity to define what housing, health, and racial justice mean in your local context. This RFP is also asking you to describe how the work you are doing and plan to do at a local level moves toward housing, health, and racial justice for people experiencing homelessness. You can describe what actions you are currently taking and the actions you plan to take to move toward justice in these areas.

New 3.14.22

Q. Will the 10-page limit include the budget narrative and the planning activities chart? If all columns of the chart are not used, will unused parts of the chart still be counted toward the page limit?

A. Yes, the budget narrative (Question 8) and the planning activities/tasks chart are counted toward the 10-page limit. Although not all columns from the planning activities/tasks chart are used, they will be included in the page limit.

New 3.14.22

Q. For Question 2, under “Key Staff/ Organization,” do you want us to list people who will be funded from this grant, or everyone who will be involved in the Planning Activity/Task?

A. Please list key people and entities that will be covered through this grant.

New 3.14.22

Q. The biggest challenge is to plan our hours for working with technical assistance provider and MICH without knowing the desired frequency of meetings and what they need from us at the CoC. Is there any more guidance you can provide us?

A. During Phase 1, we anticipate the workgroup meetings to take about 4-6 hours monthly. There will be a range of options for people to be engaged that could include more time intensive participation of work groups. Options may also include larger community conversations focused on updates and these may be more than one-time conversations. Note that Phase 1 will be wrapped up and transitioned to Phase 2 by the time this grant is implemented. Currently, we do not have any guidance on the meeting structure for Phase 2. We are intentionally working at trying not to get ahead of the process and instead let the process and next steps be driven by stakeholders to ensure we are centering the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness.

New 3.14.22

Q. How should the questions, #1, #2, and budget be connected? Do you want us to share our overall CoC goal knowing this requested funding will cover only aspects of the workplan?

A. Use the application to tell us your local plan to advance housing, health, and racial justice, including existing and new initiatives. While sharing overarching directions and strategies in Question 1, include in Question 2 the specific activities/tasks that will be covered by the requested funds. The activities/tasks and staff roles should be cohesive and well connected to the overview from Question 1 and the hour/FTE (full-time equivalent) information should match the budget. Eligible planning activities and eligible uses can be found on page 2 of the [RFP instructions document](#).

New 3.14.22

Q. Often, we have found that the grant expectations are getting greater during the implementation period. What is your plan to track the outcomes?

A. We will work with applicants that are selected through the RFP process to develop the Work Plan as part of the Grant Contract Agreement. The mutually agreed upon Work Plan will be

tracked and measured as outcomes and performances.

New 3.14.22

Q. The RFP is due by noon on March 17. Correct?

- A. Yes, all required application materials must be uploaded to the [online Multifamily Secure Upload Tool](#) by noon on Thursday, March 17, 2022 (refer to details and instructions on page 7 of the [RFP instructions document](#)). Also note that late applications will not be accepted, so plan sufficient time to submit your application and application materials, taking into account any technology learning, response time, and/or challenges.