

THE CORONAVIRUS RACIAL DISPARITIES TASK FORCE RAPID RESPONSE TEAM INITIATIVE

In response to the needs created by the pandemic, access to \$20 Million in funding has been provided to the Task Force to respond to community needs associated with the disparate impacts the virus has had on communities of color. Accordingly, a special Initiative will implement a rapid response strategy designed to mediate the impact of service gaps and special needs that can be addressed in 120 days.

The Special Initiative will focus on:

1. Projects that apply a health equity lens to serve a broad population with shared needs
2. Community-driven responses that meet vital service gaps or tangible needs
3. most importantly, projects that are “shovel ready” meaning all expenditures can be made and deliverables completed by year end. These efforts will also be used to elevate promising practices that can be documented and scaled in other communities.

Opportunities currently under consideration:

- State-wide activities:
 - Statewide plan to promote youth physical activity and education in MI during the COVID pandemic (MI Board of Education & Univ of MI)
 - Ensuring Access to Care and Support for Justice-Impacted People (MI Justice Fund)
- Community-driven efforts (several initiatives across differing community sectors being investigated; all of which have high readiness to be adapted to the Special Initiative timeline)
 - Filling gaps for Federally Qualified Health Center or Safety Net providers
 - Churches and Faith communities (providing supplies and toolkits for protective techniques including physical barriers, distant demarcations, sanitation supplies, masks, and other PPE)
 - Community non-profit needs including relief funds for services or payroll
 - Support of Local public health initiatives
 - Community Health Worker engagement
 - Small businesses support to fill gaps, including specific payroll needs
 - Mental Health and emotional support initiatives

This Initiative will be informed by principles used with Public Health Rapid Response Teams. Rapid Response Teams are interdisciplinary **teams of** trained individuals ready to deploy for **public health** emergencies, in this case we are positioning this effort to address racism as the Public Health emergency.

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

- 1) Medical expenses such as:
 - a. COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
 - b. Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.

- c. Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
 - d. Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
 - e. Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.
- 2) Public health expenses such as:
- a. Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
 - b. Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - c. Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, *e.g.*, nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - d. Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
 - e. Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
 - f. Expenses for quarantining individuals.
- 3) Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:
- a. Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
 - b. Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
 - c. COVID-19-related expenses of maintaining state prisons and county jails, including as relates to sanitation and improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
 - d. Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
 - e. Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.

Project Application Requirements:

1. Applications are due by 5 pm on Tuesday August 18, 2020.
2. Application submission process details will be forthcoming on Monday, August 10, 2020.