



## THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE ON RACIAL DISPARITIES RAPID RESPONSE 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 rapid response strategy designed to mediate the impact of service gaps and special needs that can be addressed in 120 days will be implemented through this special initiative. Rapid response strategies are a common practice employed during public health emergencies utilizing interdisciplinary teams. This effort addresses racism as an ongoing public health crisis and a root cause of health disparities experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOCI:**

1. Projects that apply a health equity lens to serve African Americans, other racial/ethnic minorities, and marginalized populations.
2. Community-driven responses that fill service gaps or meet tangible needs.
3. Projects that are “shovel ready” meaning all funds can be expended and deliverables completed by year end.
4. Efforts that will elevate and document promising practices that can be 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 (Michigan Board of Education & University of Michigan).
  - A statewide data-driven study that informs current and future decision making related to the prevention of racial disparities.
- Community-driven, multi-sector initiatives with high readiness and capacity for execution within the Special Initiative timeline. For example:
  - Filling gaps for Federally Qualified Health Centers 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

**ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES** (include, but are not limited to the following):

1. Medical expenses such as:

- COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
- Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.
- Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
- Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
- Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.

2. Public health expenses such as:

- Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
- 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.
- Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, e.g., nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
- Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
- Expenses for quarantining individuals.

3. Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:

- Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
  - 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.
  - Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
5. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:
- Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
  - Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
6. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

See the [Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance](#) for additional details on eligible and ineligible expenditures.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS for AWARDEES:**

1. Use of Funds: The CARES Act requires that the payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund only be used to cover expenses that:
  - are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19);
  - were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government;
  - were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.
2. Reporting Requirements (monthly)
  - Geographic location where the funds were spent (e.g., Legislative District).
  - Financial Status Report - forecasted and actual spending.
  - Outcome(s) - intended and actual outcomes, and how the outcomes were achieved.

Reporting Period	Report Due Date	Reporting Requirements
July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020	October 2, 2020	Grant Opening Certification
		Financial Status Report
October 30, 2020 – December 30, 2020	November 11, 2020	Expenditure Forecast Report
October 1, 2020 – December 30, 2020	January 4, 2021	Financial Status Report
December 1, 2020 – December 30, 2020	January 26, 2021	Financial Status Report
		Grant Closing Certification
		Expenditure Location Report
		Outcome Metric Report

3. Details regarding eligible expenditures, grant-specific reporting requirements, and other requirements associated with this specific CRF program appropriated by the State of Michigan will be provided prior to a funding award and include:
- Accounting and reporting forms
  - Subrecipient monitoring and management
  - Requirements for pass through entities
  - Audit requirements
  - Repayment for ineligible CRF expenditures or under spending
  - CRF Record Retention Requirements
  - Required detailed expenditure information for any contracts and grants awarded, loans issued, transfers made to other government entities, and direct payments made that are greater than or equal to \$50,000

**APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS:**

1. Applications are due by **5 pm on Monday August 24, 2020.**
2. Applications must be submitted electronically to: **CRFapplication@mphi.org.**
3. Applications must be no more than 5 pages including any attachments. Formatting must be single-spaced, 12-point font, with one-inch margins.
4. Applications must complete the application and nomination form in its entirety.
5. Additional details may be requested prior to funding, including interviews with applicant leadership.

**EVALUATION PROCESS:**

1. Only applications meeting the program requirements are eligible to receive funding through the grant program. An application will be evaluated based on the “special initiative foci” listed above.
2. A committee will review, evaluate and score the applications against the program requirements.
3. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reserves the right to establish the criteria by which it will evaluate each applicant’s response, and by which it will determine the most responsive, capable, and qualified applicants.

**AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS** are expected to be made by September 1, 2020.

**FINAL AWARDS & FUNDING** decisions are subject to State Budget Office review and approval.

**IMPLEMENTATION** time period is estimated between Mid-September – December 30, 2020.