



Call for Proposals for from Existing Partners to Support Thriving Communities April 2025

Healthy Communities Delaware (HCD) is pleased to announce this Call for Proposals from existing HCD partners for multi-year collaboration to strengthen the [vital conditions](#) that all people and communities need to thrive — humane housing, lifelong learning, a thriving natural environment, meaningful work and wealth, basic needs for health and safety, reliable transportation, and a sense of belonging and civic muscle.

What is Different About Healthy Communities Delaware and this Call for Interest?

- We collaborate with communities to strengthen the vital conditions/social determinants of health.
- We will support the work that your community decides is most important.
- We are committed to long-term work to enable meaningful community change, not short cycles like typical grants.
- In addition to funding, we provide or connect you with support tailored to your community's needs (e.g., resources on best practices, evaluation support, storytelling and communication support, professional development support, support accessing funds from other sources, and other community capacity building opportunities and resources).

Our guiding principles for this work are: collaborate with communities, embed equity in everything we do, mobilize across sectors, increase prosperity to improve health, and commit over the long-term.

General Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply? Place-based Collaborations

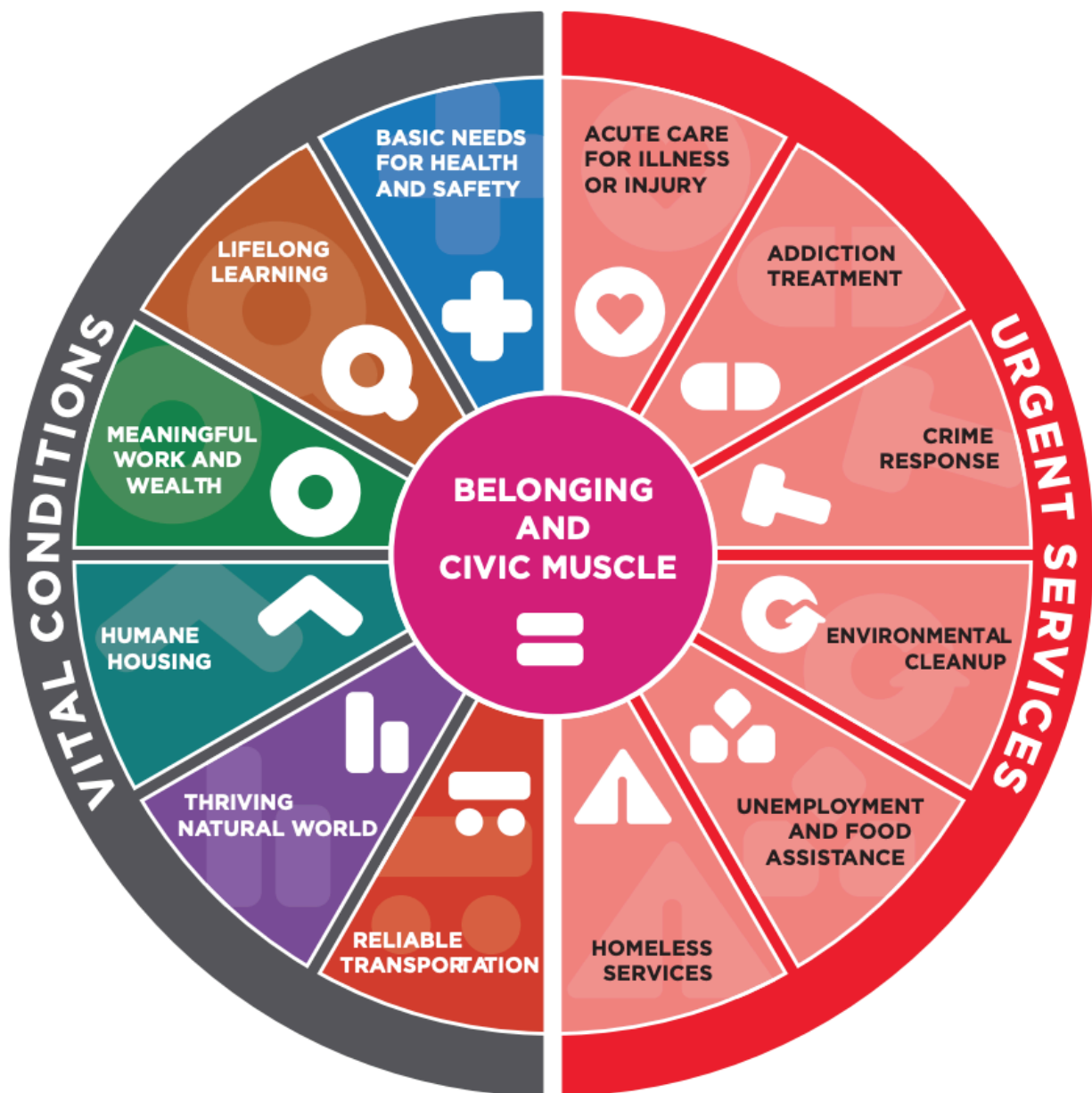
This Call is designed to support existing or foster new place-based collaborations with representation from residents and organizational stakeholders. Applications from a community must demonstrate either (1) current collaboration among residents and organizations working within a community, or (2) a plan to bring together residents and community-based organizations where that work has not yet been done. In addition to residents, collaborations may include community-based organizations, community coalitions, civic associations, faith-based organizations, schools, government entities, etc.

Partners must be willing to explore collaboration opportunities within and across communities. **Multiple partners from a given community are strongly encouraged to submit a unified application.** Funding can go to multiple organizations to conduct their part of the collaborative work. Applicants should have 501(c)3 status, or an organization that can serve as their fiscal agent. If you do not already have a fiscal agent, we can advise you on the process of finding one. Fiscal agents must be identified by the application due date.



What? Strengthen the Vital Conditions/Social Determinants of Health & Increase Equity

Proposals must focus on strengthening one or more of the vital conditions/social determinants of health. Preference will be given to applications using best-practice or evidence-based strategies. Increasing equity is a foundational goal of this effort and should be at the core of the proposed work. Community-level interventions that advance the vital conditions for the broader community will be prioritized for funding over interventions that target individuals and benefit a small group of residents (e.g. training, navigation services, youth programs, counseling). The funding is **not** intended to support services that address Urgent Needs, the services that anyone under adversity may need temporarily to regain or restore health and well-being.





THRIVING NATURAL WORLD

Sustainable resources, contact with nature, freedom from hazards
Clean air, water, soil; healthy ecosystems able to sustainably provide necessary resources; accessible natural spaces; freedom from extreme heat, flooding, wind, radiation, earthquakes, pathogens



BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH & SAFETY

Basic requirements for health and safety
Nutritious food, safe drinking water; fresh air; sufficient sleep; routine physical activity; safe, satisfying sexuality and reproduction; freedom from trauma, violence, addiction, and crime; routine care for physical and mental health



HUMANE HOUSING

Humane, consistent housing
Adequate space per person; safe structures; affordable costs; diverse neighborhoods (without gentrification, segregation, concentrated poverty); close to work, school, food, recreation and nature



MEANINGFUL WORK & WEALTH

Rewarding work, careers, and standards of living
Job training/retraining; good-paying and fulfilling jobs; family and community wealth; savings and limited debt



LIFELONG LEARNING

Continuous learning, education, and literacy
Continuous development of cognitive, social, emotional abilities; early childhood experiences; elementary, high school, and higher education; career and adult education



RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

Reliable, safe, and accessible transportation
Close to work, school, food, leisure; safe transport; active transport; efficient energy use; few environmental hazards



BELONGING & CIVIC MUSCLE

Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world
Social support; civic associations; freedom from stigma, discrimination, oppression; support for civil rights, human rights; civic agency; collective efficacy; vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life; equitable access to information; many opportunities for civic engagement (voting, volunteer, public work)



How? Community Collaboration & Community-Driven Plans

This opportunity is intended for communities utilizing the collaborative community-driven change approaches outlined below.

Approach	Description
Building Community Partnerships/ Collaborations/Steering Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Fostering collaboration and strengthening existing relationships within the community to support collaborative and coordinated community-driven change.● Supporting the creation or maintenance of a place-based collaborative or steering committee to support collaborative and coordinated community-driven change.● Ensuring the inclusion of resident leaders and diverse resident voices and perspectives in decision-making processes.
Assessing Community Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contributing to a comprehensive understanding of community needs and opportunities.● Supporting data collection, analysis, and dissemination of community needs assessments.● Ensuring the inclusion of diverse resident leaders, voices and perspectives in assessment processes.
Developing Community-Driven Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Supporting the development of a community-driven plan that supports the vital conditions and addresses identified needs and priorities.● Supporting community visioning exercises, priority-setting processes, and the development of action plans.● Ensuring the inclusion of resident leaders and diverse resident voices and perspectives in planning processes.
Implementing Community-Driven Pla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Supporting the implementation of key components of the community-driven plan.● Ensuring the inclusion of resident leaders and diverse resident voices and perspectives in implementation processes.
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contributing to the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress towards shared community goals.● Utilizing data and feedback to inform and improve future efforts.● Ensuring the inclusion of resident leaders and diverse resident voices and perspectives in monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes



Where? Eligible Communities

This opportunity is open to existing HCD communities. HCD communities are among those with the highest level of vulnerability or deprivation determined by either (1) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Social Vulnerability Index](#) or (2) the [Area Deprivation Index](#). The greatest opportunities to improve health, well-being and equity exist in these communities.

Available Funding

HCD may fund part or all of a request. Funded proposals will be shared with public and private investors with the **goal of providing additional resources through co-funding**. Because co-funding from other sources is a possible outcome, there is no limit on individual funding requests. Please consider the resources required to carry out your project in an impactful way, and align your request with those needs.

What Can the Funding Be Used For?

A combination of contractual, project, salary and capital expenses may be requested. Not all capital requests are appropriate for this collaboration and funding opportunity.

Examples of capital requests addressing social determinants/vital conditions that may be funded are:

- Light construction to clear or revitalize a green space
- Renovation of homes for vulnerable populations to increase safety and healthy home environments
- Minor exterior home repairs as part of a larger initiative to improve housing or blighted streets
- Lighting to increase street safety and walkability
- Revitalization of a school play yard that will become accessible to the public

Examples of requests that will not be funded are:

- The purchase of land
- Endowments
- Religious organizations for sectarian purposes (*However, projects that serve the entire community, regardless of religious affiliation, are eligible for support.*)
- Annual fundraising campaigns or general operating expenses
- Projects completed before the application deadline of this proposal
- Individuals
- Special events
- Debt reduction
- For-profit businesses
- Purchase of office equipment, furniture or electronics (*Exceptions may occur at the Grants Committee's discretion, for projects that build and/or sustain an organization's technology infrastructure. Such projects must clearly demonstrate the impact of this type of capacity investment.*)
- Direct lobbying
- Any organization or project that is inconsistent with the HCD mission, vision, values, and strategy
- Organizations or projects that unlawfully discriminate with regard to employees, volunteers,

delivery of programs or services, or clients served based on age, sex, religion/creed, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, marital status, military or veteran status, pregnancy or genetic information

Application Process

- Partners submit letter of interest: Share a concise summary of your project idea, highlighting its potential impact and alignment with your community’s plan and goals and HCD funding priorities. Submit through the Delaware Community Foundation online portal (<https://www.delcf.org/grants/>).
- Partners and HCD collaborate to refine ideas: We will review your LOI and provide feedback to help refine your proposal ideas. If your project doesn't align with HCD funding goals, we will offer guidance on potential modifications or other opportunities.
- Partners submit full proposal: If your project aligns with HCD funding goals, we will encourage you to submit a full proposal. Submit through the Delaware Community Foundation online portal (<https://www.delcf.org/grants/>).
- HCD reviews applications.
- HCD requests Partners to engage in Grant Agreements.

Key Dates and Deadlines for HCD Investment

Key Events	Dates
Letter of Interest Opens	February 1, 2025
Letter of Interest Due	March 1, 2025
Proposal Opens	April 1, 2025
Proposal Due	April 30, 2025
Proposal Follow-Up	May/June 2025
Grant Agreements Due	June 2025
Grant Start	July 1, 2025
Disbursement 1	July 1, 2025
Grant Kick-off Meeting	July 2025
Check-in #1 Meeting	October 2025
Progress Report Due	January 15, 2026
Check-in #2 Meeting	January 2026
Disbursement 2	February 2026
<i>2026 Letter of Intent Due</i>	<i>February 1, 2026</i>
<i>2026 Proposal Due</i>	<i>April 30, 2026</i>
Check-in #3 Meeting	May 2026
Grant End	June 30, 2026
<i>2026 Grant Start</i>	<i>July 1, 2026</i>
Final Report Due	July 15, 2026