



Metro South West Community Health Initiative



Boston
Children's
Hospital

Mental Health & Well-Being Information Session March 17, 2026

Where the world comes for answers



Boston Children's



Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Summary of Funding
- How to Apply
- Proposal Review Process
- Questions and Answers



Office of Community Health

Shari Nethersole, MD

Vice President, Community Health and Engagement

Tara Agrawal, PhD, MS

Director of Community Investment

Debbie Lay, MPH, MA

Senior Project Manager of Community Health Initiatives

Sarah Gees Bhosrekar, DrPH

Evaluation Manager

Haley Piette, MPH, CHES

Project Coordinator II

Marisa Otis, MPH

Manager of Community Programs

Stacy Walker, MBA

Director, Community Health Programs and Partnerships

Stephanie Gómez, MPH

Manager of Community Partnerships

Jennifer Fine, MPA

Senior Manager, Communications and Special Projects

Communications and Media Technical Assistance Lead

Jessica Clement

Project Manager

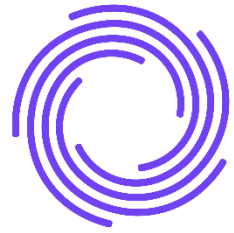
Communications and Media Technical Assistance

Marioli Rodriguez

Program Coordinator I



Capacity Building Partners



**HEALTH
RESOURCES
IN ACTION**

UMassAmherst

Donahue Institute



Mo Barbosa,
*Senior Director for
Community Engagement*



Allyson Shifley,
*Director, Capacity
Building Assistance*



Christina Citino,
Senior Research Manager



Jill Capitani,
Research Manager



About Boston Children's Hospital



Boston Children's Hospital's community mission is to improve the health and well-being of children and families in our local community.



The Office of Community Health brings together hospital and community resources to address health disparities, improve health outcomes, promote health equity, and enhance the quality of life for children and families.



Funding Overview

- Goal: to improve the mental and behavioral health of children, youth, and families.
- Applicants must propose a project that advances at least one of the four strategic focus areas:
 - 1. Counseling and support:** Promote integration of culturally and linguistically appropriate counseling and case management supports in childcare, school, community, and health center settings to keep children and families connected to these institutions and navigate changes in public assistance programs.
 - 2. Community education and peer support:** Promote culturally and linguistically appropriate education, peer support, and mentorship programs to promote belonging and reduce stress among children, youth, or parents/caregivers in school and community settings.
 - 3. Staff development:** Provide intensive, evidence-based practice training and personal support for staff working in community, school, and clinical settings. Examples include but are not limited to: Mental Health First Aid, Circle of Security, Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions, Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences, stress management and resiliency training, financial coaching.
 - 4. Enrichment programs:** Provide free out of school time programs that intentionally promote child and youth mental health in innovative and creative ways including through music, arts, play, sports, and life coaching.



Funding Overview

- A total of \$3.2M is available.
- Funding will support projects for three years (September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2029)
- Applicants may choose from one of the following funding tiers:

Funding tier and level	Applicant expectation	Geography
Tier 1: Up to \$50,000 per year/\$150,000 total	Individual lead applicant	Single community
Tier 2: Up to \$150,000 per year/\$450,000 total	Individual lead applicant with at least 1 partner	Single or cross-community collaboration

- New and current funded partners may apply.
- Anticipate funding up to 11 awards.



Core Principles

All applications will be reviewed through the lens of our 6 core principles.

1. **Equity:** Advance children's health equity.
2. **Strong Communities:** Support community leadership and partnership.
3. **Collaboration:** Foster cross sector collaboration and alignment.
4. **Innovation:** Use an assets-based approach to implement new ideas.
5. **Integration:** Strengthen the integration of social and community health services, systems, and policies.
6. **Sustainability:** Encourage efforts that will continue beyond funding.



Priority populations and geography

Children and Youth

- Black/African American, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian
- Immigrant
- LGBTQIA+
- From low-income households
- Any combination of the above

Parents and Caregivers

- With young children ages birth to five years of age
- Single parents
- Black/African American, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian
- Immigrant
- From low-income households
- Any combination of the above

Geography: Brockton, Framingham, Needham, Quincy, Randolph, Waltham, Weymouth



Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible

- Community-based organizations with 501(c)(3) status, including non-profit early childcare providers or non-profit networks supporting for-profit early childcare providers, community health centers, youth and family serving organizations, and grassroots organizations. If the organization is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, they can apply with a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor.
- Public agencies, including schools, are eligible to receive funds, but not as the lead applicant. They may be named as a partner in an application submitted by a community-based organization.

Not eligible

- Practices of and affiliated with Boston Children's Hospital
- For profit organizations
- Philanthropic organizations



Proposal Sections and Uploads

Proposals are due online by 5pm on Friday, April 17

- Complete Proposal Narrative
 - Section 1. Organization Overview
 - Section 2. Advancing Equity
 - Section 3. Project Description
 - Section 4. Evaluation
 - Section 5. Budget
- Uploads
 1. Project Work Plan
 2. Project Budget template (3 year term)
 3. Organizational Budget
 4. W-9 tax form
 5. 2 Letters of Support. (From participants or partners outside of your organization.)
 6. For Tier 2: Partnership Letter(s) for projects sharing budget resources or reliance on specific partners for project success.
 7. Other supporting materials. (Optional)

11



Funding Requirements

- Completed Grant Agreement with Supporting Documents
- Evaluation reporting through online portal twice a year
- Participation in annual meetings and learning sessions
- Periodic check ins with Boston Children's Hospital



Proposal Submission Process

- **Request for Proposals** available at https://bostonchildrens.smapply.io/pr og/2026_mental_health_and_well-being_request_for_proposals
- **Proposals due Friday, April 17 by 5 p.m.** at <https://bostonchildrens.smapply.io/>

Tips for submission

- Collaborators can be added but only the lead user can **Submit**.
- Cut and paste responses from a Word document into the online application.
- Your work can be saved as you go. Completed applications can be downloaded as a pdf.
- Click **Submit** so that your application is received. You should receive a confirmation email.

13



Next Steps

Register for an account

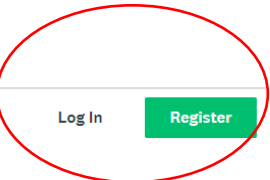
<https://bostonchildrens.smapply.io/>

Schedule Office Hours

[https://calendly.com/haleypietette-mhwb-rfp-office-hours](https://calendly.com/haleypietette/mhwb-rfp-office-hours)

FAQ document updated weekly

www.canva.com/design/DAHC696ZYrw/CMGacNFgsCBF-unsFb_Nuw/view?utm_content=DAHC696ZYrw&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=h74347d40db



Boston Children's Hospital | Office of Community Health

Boston Children's Hospital

Welcome to Boston Children's Office of Community Health funding page! Below are the funding opportunities that are now open.

Questions? Contact us at TalkToUs@childrens.harvard.edu

Programs

Route 128 Communities: Mental Health a...
Accepting applications from Apr 24 2023 07:00 AM (EDT) to Jun 9 2023

Route 128 Communities: Flourishing Fami...
Accepting applications from Apr 24 2023 07:00 AM (EDT) to Jun 9 2023

Email questions to haley.piette@childrens.harvard.edu



Proposal Review Process

- Applications will be screened for completion. Applicants deemed incomplete will not be reviewed.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Boston Children's Metro South West Community Health Initiative Allocation Committee and assessed for alignment with the six Core Principles.
- Boston Children's staff may follow up with select applicants for further due diligence before making a final decision.
- Final decisions are anticipated for mid-July with a project start date of September 1, 2026.



Proposal Review Tool

Reviewers will rate 9 evaluation criteria on a 5-point scale, with 5 being very good and 1 being poor.

- 1 criterion for Organizational Overview
- 1 criterion for Advancing Equity
- 4 criteria for Project Description
- 1 criterion for Evaluation
- 2 criteria for Budget

The Proposal Review Tool is available at

[https://bostonchildrens.smapply.io/prog/2026 mental health and well-being request for proposals](https://bostonchildrens.smapply.io/prog/2026_mental_health_and_well-being_request_for_proposals)



Proposal Review Tool

Ratings will be weighted such that the maximum score for each proposal section is:

- Organizational Overview = 25 points
- Advancing Equity = 20 points
- Project Description = 85 points
- Evaluation = 15 points
- Budget = 25 points



Questions & Answers



Proposals Due: April 17, 2026 @5pm
Haley.Piette@Childrens.Harvard.edu



THANK YOU!

