



## Community Impact Grants Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: May 2024

### Grant Eligibility & Funding Priorities

#### What kinds of projects are eligible for funding?

Community Impact Grants support projects that:

- Align with one or more of the following Impact Areas:
  - Behavioral Health (including mental health and substance use)
  - Children, Youth & Families
  - Housing & Homelessness
- Serve Marion and/or Polk County (while broadly projects may serve additional counties, Community Impact Grant funds are intended to only support project activities in the Marion- Polk region).
- Support the Willamette Health Council's (WHC's) mission, which is to improve the health of the Marion-Polk community by governing our Coordinated Care Organization, investing in our communities, and fostering collaborative relationships.

#### What kinds of projects are prioritized for funding?

WHC prioritizes funding projects that align with more than one Impact Area (as outlined above), are equity-driven, are culturally and linguistically responsive, and support the [Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan priorities and specific aims](#). In addition, projects that have not received grant funding from WHC and/or PacificSource in the past will be prioritized for funding.

#### Why are we asked to include outcomes and outputs as part of the grant application?

The WHC uses outcomes and outputs to track the impact of our community investments. When applying for a grant, you will be asked to include at least two outcomes, a set of supporting outputs, and an overview of how you plan to track progress towards achieving those outcomes and outputs. Reference [Understanding Outcomes & Outputs](#) for more information.

#### Is there a maximum amount of funds I can apply for?

Yes; the maximum amount you can request is \$100,000.

#### Is multi-year funding available?

Not at this time. Grants are intended to fund projects for one year. Additionally, grants will be awarded in 2024 for projects taking place in 2025.

#### Can grant funds be used for capital investments?

Yes.

#### What are capital investments?

Capital investments are identified as the purchasing of physical assets, such as real estate, land, or equipment, to be used to assist long-term operations.

## I was awarded a WHC grant last year. Can I submit a grant application this year for the same project?

Yes, however, in support of our mission and equity aims, we prioritize funding projects that we have not funded in the past. In addition, our available funding for community grants fluctuates from year-to-year. If awarded a WHC grant, we encourage grant seekers to have sustainability plans for how they will continue their project after the grant period. Put simply, we never want to be a revenue line item in an organization’s operating budget.

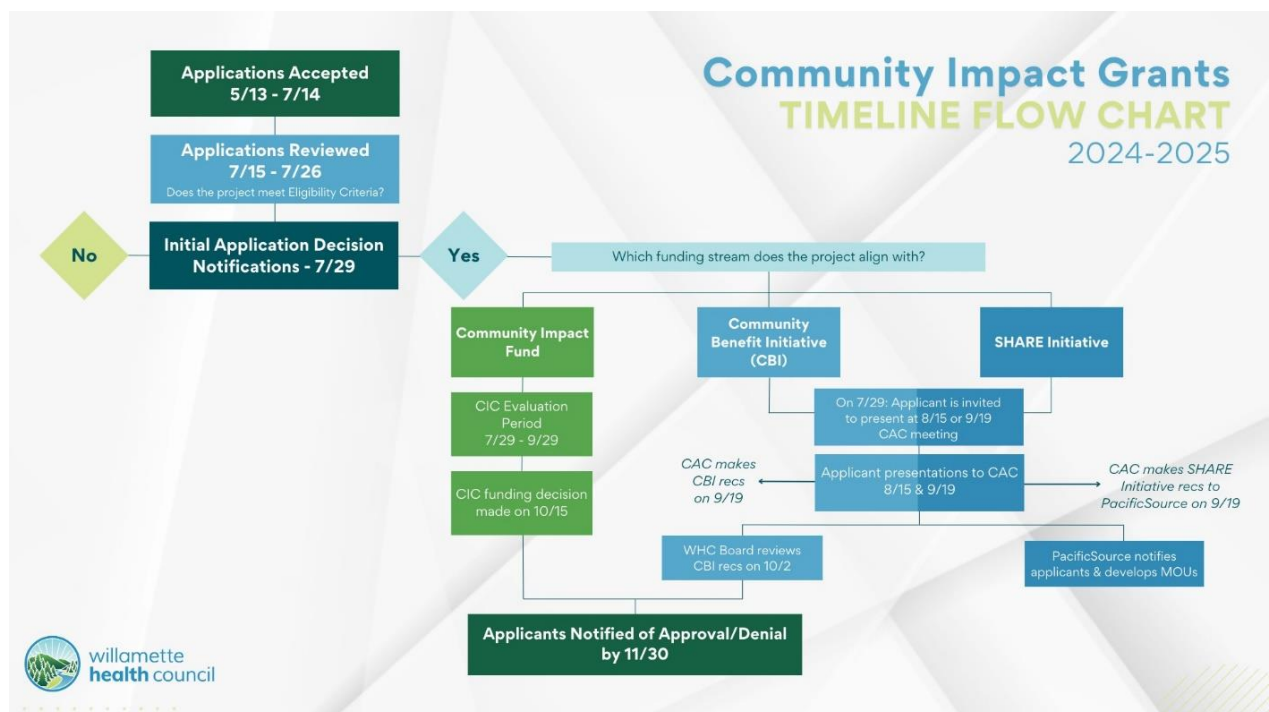
## I was awarded a WHC Community Impact Donation in the past. Can I apply for a Community Impact Grant?

Yes, as long as your grant request is different from your donation request.

### Application & Award Process

#### What does the grant application process entail?

In partnership with PacificSource, The WHC has braided three funding streams—[Community Benefit Initiatives](#), [SHARE Initiative](#), and Community Impact Fund dollars—to offer the Community Impact Grants Program. The first step in the process is to submit a grant application. Applications are reviewed by WHC to confirm they meet basic eligibility requirements and to determine which funding stream the project best aligns with, if any. Projects aligned with the [Community Benefit Initiative](#) and/or [SHARE Initiative](#) may be invited to present an overview of their project to the [Community Advisory Council](#). Projects that comply with Community Impact Fund requirements will be reviewed and evaluated by the [Community Impact Committee](#) (there is no presentation step).



#### What are Community Benefit Initiatives?

Community Benefit Initiatives are a type of Health-Related Service. They include community-level

interventions focused on improving population health and health care quality. These initiatives must include Oregon Health Plan members but are not necessarily limited to members. Learn more about Community Benefit Initiatives [here](#).

### **What is the SHARE Initiative?**

The SHARE Initiative, which stands for Supporting Health for All through Reinvestment, comes from a Oregon legislative requirement for coordinated care organizations (CCOs) to invest some of their profits back into their communities. After meeting minimum financial standards, CCOs must spend a portion of their net income or reserves on services to address health inequities and the social determinants of health and equity (SDOH-E). Learn more about the SHARE Initiative [here](#). Locally, organizations apply for SHARE Initiative funds through the WHC's Community Impact Grants Program. However, PacificSource administers these funds and contracts directly with SHARE Initiative grant recipients.

### **What is the Community Impact Fund?**

The Community Impact Fund is a community investment funding stream developed and administered by the WHC. It is intended to support projects within the Marion-Polk community that advance community health and well-being in accordance with the WHC's mission, vision, and values. The WHC's [Community Impact Committee](#) oversees this fund and related policy work.

### **What is the Community Impact Committee and what role do they play in the Community Impact Grant Program?**

The [Community Impact Committee \(CIC\)](#) is a committee under the WHC Board of Directors that oversees investment of our Community Impact Fund and related policy work. The CIC is made up of WHC Board members, committee members, and other community stakeholders. In tandem with the [Community Advisory Council](#), the CIC develops and oversees the Community Impact Grant Program.

### **How do I submit a grant application?**

Applicants submit a grant application through the WHC's online grant management system [here](#). Organizations applying for WHC funds for the first time need to create a new account within this system. Those who are returning applicants should utilize their organization's existing account to submit the grant application. Please reach out to [Molly Duddlesten](#), Community Investments Coordinator, if you need assistance.

### **What is the Community Advisory Council and what role do they play in the Community Impact Grant Program?**

The [Community Advisory Council \(CAC\)](#) is a committee under the WHC Board of Directors that advises WHC and PacificSource on how best to serve people on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). A majority of CAC members are OHP consumers. The CAC develops and oversees the Community Impact Grant Program with a focus on grants awarded through the [Community Benefit Initiative](#) and [SHARE Initiative](#).

### **What does the presentation to the Community Advisory Council entail?**

Projects that comply with [Community Benefit Initiative](#) and/or [SHARE Initiative](#) requirements may be invited to provide a brief presentation on their project to the [Community Advisory Council](#). More information about presentation requirements will be shared by email with applicants on July 29<sup>th</sup>. *Given this requirement, we strongly encourage all Community Impact Grant applicants to hold August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00pm on their calendars, should they be invited for a presentation.*

### **What criteria is used to evaluate grants?**

- WHC reviews initial grant applications to confirm a) completeness, b) they meet basic grant program eligibility, and c) to determine which funding stream, if any, they best align with.
- From there, applications that align with the [Community Benefit Initiative](#) and/or [SHARE Initiative](#) are reviewed by the [Community Advisory Council \(CAC\)](#). The CAC uses this [scoring tool](#) to evaluate projects.
- Applications aligned with the Community Impact Fund are reviewed by the Community Impact Committee (CIC). The CIC uses this [scoring tool](#) to evaluate projects.

### **If I am awarded a grant, what are the reporting requirements?**

Projects funded by the Community Benefit Initiative and Community Impact Fund are managed by WHC. These grant recipients will be required to submit bi-annual progress reports through the WHC's online grant management system. Grantees are also required to attend an annual convening jointly hosted by the [Community Advisory Council](#) and [Community Impact Committee](#), and participate in site visits.

Projects funded through the SHARE Initiative are managed by PacificSource. PacificSource requires grant recipients to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, provide progress updates to the [Community Advisory Council](#), and do a mid-cycle check-in with outcome reporting. In addition, these grant recipients will also be required to attend the annual convening jointly hosted by the [Community Advisory Council](#) and [Community Impact Committee](#).

### **Timeline**

#### **When are grant applications due?**

July 14, 2024, by 11:59pm PST.

#### **When is the presentation to the CAC?**

Applicants invited to present their projects to the CAC will either do so on August 15<sup>th</sup> or September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00pm. *We encourage all applicants to hold this time in their calendars should they be invited for a presentation.* Applicants will be notified on July 29<sup>th</sup> if invited to present to CAC and on what date.

**When will I be notified about the status of my application?**

Organizations will be informed if their applications meets minimum requirements and is approved for next steps by July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**If my application is approved, when will I be notified if my project is awarded funds?**

Organizations will be informed if they are awarded a grant by November 30, 2024.

**If awarded a grant, when can I expect the funds to be disbursed?**

Awardees are required to complete a grant Letter of Agreement. Once the Letter of Agreement is executed, funds will be disbursed in full. The anticipated timeline for funds disbursement is December 2024-January 2025. For applicants awarded SHARE Initiative funds, PacificSource will reach out directly to initiate Memorandum of Understandings and manage payment.

### Definition of Key Terms

**Health Equity**

According to the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined circumstances.

Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:

- The equitable distribution or redistribution of resources and power; and
- Recognizing, reconciling and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.

**Cultural & Linguistic Responsiveness**

A process by which people and systems respond respectfully and effectively to individuals of all cultures, languages, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families, and communities and that protects and preserves the dignity of each.

**Population Health**

As defined by the Oregon Health Authority, population health “connotes a high-level assessment of a group of people. This epidemiologic framework is often in direct opposition to the manner in which the health care system has cared for patients; one individual at a time. ‘Population’ in population health can be defined from several different perspectives:

- Population served by an individual provider or payer.
- Population served by the entire delivery system.
- Population residing in the broader community.”

## **Healthcare Quality Improvement**

Activities that improve health care quality include expenses related to the following, as defined in 42 CFR 438.8(e)(3):

- Activities to improve health outcomes including:
  - Case management, care coordination, and chronic disease management
  - Expenses associated with identifying and addressing ethnic, cultural or racial disparities.
  - Effectiveness of identified best clinical practices and evidence-based medicine.
  - Quality reporting and documentation of care in a non-electronic format
- Activities to prevent hospital readmission.
- Activities to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors.
- Wellness and health promotion activities
- Health information technology expenses related to improving health care quality.

## **Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid Covered Services**

Please refer [here](#) to check if your project offers Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid-covered services. Community Benefit Initiative funds cannot be used to cover Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid-covered services.

## **Health-Related Services**

Health-Related Services (HRS) are noncovered services under Oregon's Medicaid State Plan that are not otherwise administrative requirements and are intended to improve care delivery and overall member and community health and well-being. The two types of HRS include Flexible Services and Community Benefit Initiatives. HRS requirements are established by the Oregon Health Authority and defined by Oregon Administrative Rules. To check if your project qualifies as an HRS, please refer [here](#).

## **Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)**

The CHIP is the Marion-Polk region's strategic plan for improving community health. The CHIP currently focuses on three priority areas: Behavioral Health Supports, Housing, and Substance Use. You can reference the complete CHIP [here](#). You can also reference a CHIP summary document [here](#). For further information on the CHIP, please contact [Trisha Kumar](#), Community Health Program Manager.

## **Documented Best Practice/Evidence**

Documented best practice/evidence includes a procedure or service that has been shown by research and experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed as a standard suitable for widespread adoption.

## **Social Determinants of Health and Equity (SDOH-E)**

For a full explanation and examples of SDOH-E, please refer to the Oregon Health Authority's issue brief on *Addressing Social Determinants of Health & Equity through Health-Related Services* [here](#).