

# Questions and Answers: Healthy Communities Grant Competition 2024

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R1-HC-2024

Questions and answers as of August 7, 2024

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) New England Region is accepting applications for funding under the Healthy Communities Grant Program (EPA-R1-HC-2024) until **November 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

This document contains responses to questions raised in EPA's information sessions and to questions submitted to the Healthy Communities email inbox and program contacts. EPA plans to update this document regularly with additional incoming questions regarding the Healthy Communities Grant Competition.

This document includes questions and answers on the following topics:

- I. [Applicant Eligibility](#)
- II. [Project Eligibility](#)
- III. [Application Materials](#)

## Applicant Eligibility

1. Q: Are councils of governments eligible to apply for Healthy Communities funding?

A: Yes. The list of eligible applicant types is broad and includes local, state, and regional governments. A list of entity types eligible to apply for funding can be found in Section III.A of the RFA (p. 22).

2. Q: My organization/group has a nonprofit serving as our fiscal sponsor. Are we eligible to apply for Healthy Communities funding?

A: Yes. In this case, the nonprofit fiscal sponsor would be the legal applicant, and the application would need to explain the relationship between the nonprofit and the organization or group carrying out the project in the project narrative and/or environmental results, past performance, and programmatic capability attachment.

3. Q: Are pass-through entities eligible to apply?

A: Yes. Entities designated as eligible in Section III.A of the RFA (p. 22) may apply to the Healthy Communities Grant Program to make subawards to other eligible entities. If awarded, the recipient would be responsible for having all subawardees report to them. Applicants intending to make subawards must adhere to the [EPA Subaward Policy](#).

## Project Eligibility

4. Q: How do I determine if my project serves one of the target investment areas?

A: To be eligible for funding, an application must propose a project that serves one or more of the target investment areas identified in the RFA. The target investment areas are written broadly and leave some room for interpretation; it is the applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient details justifying the application's alignment with the target investment area(s) identified. A population or geographic area that is not explicitly mentioned under a particular target investment area may still qualify under that area, provided that the application gives a clear and reasonable justification for how it qualifies. Conversely, even if the population(s)/area(s) an applicant plans to work with are explicitly highlighted in the RFA, applicants are cautioned that they will still need to justify their project's alignment with the selected target investment area(s). Details on the target investment areas can be found in Section I.B of the RFA (p. 7-9).

5. Q: How do I determine which target program area(s) my project aligns with?

A: As with the target investment areas, applicants will need to provide sufficient detail in the application materials to demonstrate that the proposed project aligns with one or more of the target program areas outlined in the RFA. Prospective applicants should read Section I.B of the RFA (p. 9-19) carefully to learn more about project activities that align with each target program area, as well as project examples and example outputs for each. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate in the application materials how the proposal addresses the selected target program area(s). Applicants are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the statutory authorities listed on page 6 of the RFA to ensure that their proposed projects comply with the relevant statutes.

6. Q: My organization supports communities who are working on different campaigns to address environmental health threats that could fall within multiple target program areas. Should we apply for funding to support this work broadly or focus on one program area?

A: It is up to the applicant to choose whether to focus on a single program area or address multiple with their proposed project, depending on what is most appropriate for the applicant. Applicants should refer to the evaluation criteria outlined in Section V.A of the RFA (p. 29-33) and determine what they wish to include in their proposals based on what can be adequately addressed and justified in the application materials. To receive full points, applications must provide sufficient detail justifying the project's alignment with all target program areas identified in their application.

7. Q: Are construction costs eligible for Healthy Communities funding?

A: No, costs related to construction or installation are not allowable expenses under the Healthy Communities program.

8. Q: Can Healthy Communities funding support ongoing, year-round projects?

A: Healthy Communities funding may be used to support existing or ongoing programs, but applications must be focused only on a specific time period falling within the allowable program dates. Per Section II.A of the RFA (p. 21), projects funded under the Healthy Communities program may last one or two years and start no earlier than April 1, 2025. Applications should clearly describe the specific activities and deliverables that will take place during the project period and be funded by the Healthy Communities program. Applications proposing projects that are part of broader, ongoing programs should make clear how the activities specified in the application fit into the bigger picture of the program, as well as which specific portions of the program the Healthy Communities grant would be supporting.

### **Application Materials**

9. Q: Should applicants submit a budget narrative with their applications?

A: Applicants should not submit any application materials beyond those that are listed in Section IV.A of the RFA (p. 24-27). Any submitted materials that are not included in the RFA will not be reviewed. Applicants should ensure that all necessary budget information is provided in the required application materials; the project narrative and budget detail provide opportunities for applicants to break down individual proposed costs and justify why expenses are necessary for the successful completion of the project.