

# Selection Criteria

We recognize that each proposal reflects a unique set of needs and challenges. Proposal reviewers apply our selection criteria holistically as a lens to understand the strengths, weaknesses, and potential challenges with every proposal.

*The MTHF Board of Trustees reserves the discretion to consider factors not explicitly described when approving or rejecting grants.*

**Importance:** The project addresses an important health issue or health-related need.

**Need:** The project fills a need that other available resources in the community have not met.

**Sustainability:** Benefits from the grant endure after the funding runs out. When the grant establishes or supports new programming, the strongest proposals will demonstrate a clear, feasible plan to sustain the programming through reliable revenue sources beyond grants and fundraising.

**Creating partnerships:** The project will create or advance new partnerships among organizations that may not have worked together before, resulting in more efficient use of community resources. Proposals should detail specific contributions the identified partners will make to the project.

**Focus on at-risk populations:** The project will serve a region or population of high need, as measured by limited access to health services, staffing shortages, geographic distance from services, higher rates of specific health issues, or unmet health and health-related needs. Our investments are intended to improve health, well-being, and resilience among those at greatest risk for poor health outcomes.

**New solutions:** Effective interventions for the identified health issue or health-related need exist but are not already being implemented. The grant will not be used to support the maintenance or expansion of an existing program.

**Workable in Montana and culturally appropriate:** The project is designed to fit the culture, strengths, infrastructure, and resource constraints of the community that will be served.

**Feasibility and scale:** There is a high probability that this grant will be successful. The strongest proposals will show potential for being replicated successfully in other communities.



**Geography:** We seek to support projects across the state in large and small communities. Preparing a high-quality proposal may be more difficult for smaller communities with fewer staff and resources. We may, therefore, give preference to projects from organizations based in and serving rural and frontier communities.

**Involving stakeholders and community members:** The project includes a strong plan to ensure that community members and other stakeholders are engaged and included in the work.

**Collaboration with tribal leadership:** Projects that involve a substantial focus on American Indian populations must demonstrate collaboration with the appropriate tribal health authorities, such as the relevant tribal council(s), the health directors of the relevant tribes, or the relevant urban Indian health centers.

**For PRIs, likelihood of repayment:** A PRI will only be made when there is a strong likelihood of repayment.

## What We Do Not Fund

- Individuals
- Capital campaigns
- Operating deficits or retirement of debt
- Unless part of a Montana Healthcare Foundation-invited proposal, construction projects, real estate, acquisitions, or endowments
- Fundraising events
- Organizations that discriminate because of race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or political orientation
- Lobbying as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, section 4945(d)(1)
- Activities supporting political candidates or voter registration drives as defined in U.S. Internal Revenue Code, section 4945(d)(2)
- Large equipment purchases (for example, medical equipment, vans, etc.), where such purchases constitute a substantial portion of the grant budget
- Medical research or research lacking a direct, targeted, and practical benefit to Montanans' health
- Organizations or foundations for redistribution of funds via sub-grants

**Please note that our funds may not be used in any way that might supplant government funding of existing programs. All applicants must read our [Guidelines on Supplanting](#).**