

## Guidelines for Washington County Funding Opportunities

### I. Background

Living Healthy Washington County (LHWC) is pleased to accept project proposal requests on an ongoing basis for the 2024-2025 funding cycle. These funds are made available through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), which strives to reduce health disparities and help Minnesotans lead longer, healthier lives by preventing the risk factors of poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and commercial tobacco use. SHIP intentionally invests in creating opportunities in partnership with communities that lead to equitable, healthy, and positive conditions that promote health and well-being while collaboratively working to eliminate health inequities through continuous and robust community engagement.

Projects will focus on increasing access to healthy food, tobacco cessation, supports for breastfeeding, physical activity and mental well-being.

To be eligible for funding, organizations must be located within Washington County. Funding priority will be given to:

- Project proposals focused on racially and ethnically diverse communities, people experiencing homelessness and/or low-income, veterans, LGBTQIA+ communities, and people living with disabilities.
- Project proposals that directly impact or support health equity.

### II. Funds and Project Timeline

- Project proposals may vary in funding amount requested with awards being as low as \$1,000 and up to \$20,000.
- Project requests exceeding \$20,000 will be considered on a limited basis.
- Full funding of any request is not guaranteed, and a partial award may be offered.
- Funded partners are required to provide a 10 percent match of the total funding requested.
- Only one project request per focus area will be accepted.
- Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until total funding is exhausted.
- Approved funds are provided on a reimbursement basis and available through October 31, 2025.
- Purchases made prior to the signed contract date will not be reimbursed.
- Living Healthy Washington County staff will be available to help navigate through the proposal process and answer any questions that may arise.

### III. Project Criteria and Focus Areas

Proposals must focus on sustainable health promotion projects that increase health equity through policy, systems, and environmental changes. Project focus areas and examples are listed in the table below. The list is **not all inclusive** and additional project proposals will be considered that meet criteria. If you would like to discuss your project idea prior to submitting a project proposal, please contact Rebecca Leighton at [rebecca.leighton@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:rebecca.leighton@co.washington.mn.us).

Focus Area	Examples
Community Based Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of community garden for community organization, housing community or municipality</li> <li>• Enhance existing structures/resources within a community garden</li> </ul>

*Supported by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, Minnesota Department of Health*

Food & Nutrition Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food shelf purchases equipment and signage to allow for increased selection of healthy and/or culturally relevant foods</li> <li>• Food shelf adopts client choice model</li> </ul>
Farm to school, early childhood education (ECE) and/or institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site gardens are available for student education</li> <li>• Students engage in educational activities related to food, nutrition and/or agriculture</li> </ul>
Farmers Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer’s market obtains authorization and equipment to accept SNAP-EBT and Market Bucks transactions</li> <li>• Farmer’s market promotes inclusive gathering spaces for the community</li> </ul>
Breastfeeding Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breastfeeding Friendly Workplaces – support with structural changes, policy changes, etc.</li> </ul>
Tobacco Cessation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tobacco-Free Grounds</li> <li>• Quit Partner Referral Integration</li> </ul>
Workplace Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical</li> <li>• Healthy Eating</li> <li>• Mental-Wellbeing</li> </ul>
Mental well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build trauma-informed principles into institutions (e.g., government agencies, community leaders, elected officials)</li> <li>• School-Based Social and Emotional Climate</li> <li>• Healthy Brain Initiative/healthy aging</li> </ul>
Active Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alterations to make parks more accessible such as bike repair stations, adaptive equipment, signage, wayfinding, etc.</li> </ul>
Technical assistance available on all project proposals.	

**IV. Funding Requirements**

- Organizations must be in Washington County.
- Proof of 1.5 million liability insurance is required.
- Projects must include at least one focus area as described above.
- A designated project lead must connect with Washington County Public Health and Environment staff to finalize the action plan, timelines, budget, evaluation plan, and a county agreement.
- Applicants must provide a 10 percent match of the total funding requested (in-kind staff time counts).
- The project lead must be able to carry out general business practices for accounting, record keeping, timely invoicing and reporting. The project lead may assign someone from the organization these duties and responsibilities if necessary.
- Evaluation and reporting are required. Assistance will be provided as needed.
- Funds must be spent by October 31, 2025.

**Questions** can be directed to Rebecca Leighton at [rebecca.leighton@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:rebecca.leighton@co.washington.mn.us).