



Health Equity Fund

Promoting Health for All Boulder Residents

What is the Health Equity Fund?

The City of Boulder's [Health Equity Fund](#) (HEF) provides funding to non-profit organizations promoting health equity for Boulder residents. Funding is awarded through an annual competitive process, based on alignment with the intent of the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Distribution Tax.

The city defines health equity as “the absence of systematic health disparities based on socio-economic factors, and the ability of all residents to reach their full health potential, regardless of their life circumstances.” In Boulder, people experiencing health disparities may include:

- Residents disproportionately impacted by diseases linked to sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) consumption or disproportionately targeted by SSB marketing;
- Residents who lack access to healthy food, safe water, quality health care, wellness information and health care services and systems; and
- Populations systemically disenfranchised due to race, ethnicity, income, age, ability, sexual orientation or gender identification.

Why does Boulder have a Health Equity Fund?

In Nov. 2016, Boulder voters approved a ballot measure that authorized the city to tax the distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages. The community-initiated measure, which went into effect in July 2017, was intended to improve community health and increase investment in programs designed to reduce health disparities. It specifically requires that tax revenues be used for health promotion; wellness programs and disease prevention among people experiencing health disparities.

Who can apply for funding?

Non-profit organizations, agencies and institutions serving Boulder residents can request funding through the annual [competitive fund round](#), for programs that meet HEF criteria including:

- Benefitting people most affected by, or at increased risk from chronic disease linked to sugary drink consumption, or who generally experience health disparities;
- Demonstrating sound research or evidence-based best practices;
- Demonstrating strong and long-term evaluation of outcomes, or the potential for long-term evaluation; and
- Meaningfully engaging at-risk community members in the design, implementation and/or evaluation of the proposed program.

Each year, the city publishes a Request for Proposal (RFP) which provides detailed program priority, eligibility and criteria descriptions.



Credit: "I Have A Dream" Foundation of Boulder Co.



Credit: Community Cycles



Credit: Growing Gardens



Credit: YWCA of Boulder County

How is the HEF impacting our community?

Between July 2017 and December 2018, the city collected approximately \$7.5 million in total tax revenue, and has awarded or allocated approximately \$7.3 million to programs aimed at decreasing health disparities and increasing health equity in Boulder.

HEF-funded programs include those that:

- Distribute fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods to Boulder's low-income and food-insecure populations;
- Provide physical activity programs for low-income children, teens and older adults;
- Provide dental exams, preventative diabetes screenings, substance abuse treatments and other direct health services for low-income and people of color residents;
- Research and advocate for access to clean household drinking water in mobile home communities;
- Conduct neighborhood outreach and education for health and wellness in Latinx communities; and
- Provide maternal and childcare services to reduce health disparities.

In 2019 the city and the consulting group Health Management Associates will work with HEF grantees, Health Equity Fund Advisory Committee members and other community residents to determine priority long-term HEF outcomes and evaluate impacts from HEF fund allocations and capacity-building activities.

How are funding decisions made?

The Health Equity Advisory Committee (HEAC) is a nine-member committee comprised of community members with diverse expertise in health disparity and health equity issues. Committee members review funding applications, and make recommendations to staff and the city manager for funding based on the most effective ways to address health equity and chronic disease associated with sugary drink consumption. Specifically, the committee's purpose is to:

- Help define desired outcomes and key indicators that should be tracked to measure success;
- Provide recommendations on what existing city and community programs could be expanded with additional funding;
- Provide recommendations on what existing and new city and community programs should be funded in future years; and
- Provide input on effective strategies and programs to engage residents most affected by health disparities and lack of access to health services.

Serving on the HEAC requires approximately 30 hours of time per year. Most of this time will be spent late summer and early fall for funding application review and determining funding recommendations.

The city accepts applications for the HEAC on a rolling basis, for consideration as committee vacancies arise. To apply for the HEAC, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/BoulderHEAC1> or contact HEF staff to request a paper application.



Credit: Boulder County Farmers Market



Credit: Clinica



Credit: El Centro Amistad



Credit: Boulder Parks and Recreation

For more information contact Elizabeth Crowe, Program Manager, Health Equity Fund, at (303) 441-1928 or crowee@bouldercolorado.gov. Visit the HEF website at <http://bouldercolorado.gov/human-services/health-equity-fund>.