

Many Hands is pleased to provide answers to the following questions we received from potential applicants for the 2020 Grant Cycle.

## **Scope and Breadth of Applicant Program**

Q: We operate a center providing services to 240 families with children ages 0 to 5 in the District of Columbia. Would Many Hands consider support for a standalone center like ours, or do you typically fund organizations that have a wider reach? Is there a preference for funding enhancements to existing programs vs. new projects?

A: Many Hands will support a standalone operation like the one you describe, as well as organizations with a wider reach. Additionally, Many Hands funds both existing programs and new projects and does not have a preference for one over the other.

Q: Would Many Hands consider funding a new staff position that would significantly increase our organization's capacity and sustainability?

A: Yes, Many Hands will consider funding a new staff position and has done so with previous grants.

Q: Can Many Hands provide guidance on which of two projects it would prefer to fund? One is for a new staff position to expand our program; the other is for a one-time expense.

A: We do not provide guidance on which type of proposal might be more successful. Many Hands has previously funded ongoing operational expenses, including the funding of new staff positions, as well as one-time expenses to expand or improve a program and capital projects including the purchase of capital assets.

Q: We receive funding from the State of Maryland for certain of the services we provide, and Maryland has changed its funding process such that we now need to seek private funding to support the services we provide in advance of receiving reimbursement. Would Many Hands consider providing funding to replace or advance funds that we previously received from the State of Maryland?

A: Yes, Many Hands would consider a grant application to replace government funding or to advance funding in advance of government reimbursement.

## **Population Served**

Q: We provide services to meet the individual needs of women and men who struggle with behavioral health disorders. The population we serve are single adult women and men, not families or children, and our residents tend to be roughly 50% women and 50% men. Would you consider this population served to be eligible for this grant program? If we propose a program to ensure the funds only benefit women in our programs, would that be preferable?

A: Many Hands funds only organizations or programs that serve primarily women, children, and families. Your organization does not serve primarily women, but if you propose a program that does serve *primarily* women, that program would be eligible for Many Hands funding.

Q: We have previously submitted a grant application to Many Hands but were not selected because we were not primarily focused on women or children. We have increased the number of teens that we served over the past year and were wondering whether we should reapply since teens are now the largest group that we serve.

A: If your organization primarily serves teens—that is, if teens make up more than 50 percent of the population you serve—then you are eligible to receive a grant from Many Hands. It does not matter whether the teens are girls or boys.

Q: Our organization primarily serves children ages 4 to 17 and families. We have a question regarding whether Many Hands primarily awards grants and/or accepts applications from organizations that were founded by men and/or have an all-male board.

A: Your organization primarily serves children and families and therefore is eligible to receive a grant from Many Hands.

## **Budget**

Q: Based on eligibility, our organization budget is slightly greater than \$10 million. It is approximately \$10.8 million. Can you advise if the \$10 million limit for organization budget is an absolute maximum or is it flexible?

A: The \$10 million limit is an absolute maximum.

Q: Our organization has two questions regarding the financial criteria for eligibility for a Many Hands grant. First, if an organization has restricted funds in the required amount do these funds qualify? Second, can you provide further clarity around the "in cash" requirement?

A: Restricted funds do count towards Many Hands' minimum (\$500,000, of which \$450,000 must be in cash) and maximum (\$10 million) operating budgets. The "in cash" requirement is intended to distinguish between cash and in-kind contributions. For example, if an organization has a \$500,000 operating budget, but \$400,000 of that budget is the value of in-kind contributions, the organization would not meet our \$450,000 minimum in-cash requirement.

## **Geographic Location**

Q: Will you accept applications for programs addressing food insecurity and health behavior change in Prince George's County? We see that it says "Washington, DC area" so we just wanted to be sure.

A: Yes, we accept applications for programs serving residents of one or more of the following areas: District of Columbia; Montgomery County; Prince George's County; Arlington County; Fairfax County; and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church.

## **Religious Affiliation**

Q: We are a faith-based organization, but we do not evangelize or proselytize and are currently recipients of Federal and State funding for our programs involving immigrants. Is our organization eligible to receive a Many Hands grant?

A: To be eligible for a Many Hands grant, both the organization must be secular and non-partisan both in the specific program and the overall mission. As a faith-based organization, you would not qualify if your overall mission is religious and not secular. If your mission refers to any particular religion or religious figure, you are not eligible for a Many Hands grant.

Q: Our mission is to develop relationships with families to see our community transformed by Christ. We do not compel religious participation in our programs, but we do discuss faith during our programs. We do not require our program participants to be affiliated with or participate in a specific religious faith. Would we be eligible for this grant?

A: This program would not be eligible for a Many Hands grant because it is not secular and non-partisan in mission or program.