



Safety Net Fund: Fall 2023 Request for Proposals

HealthSpark Foundation invites applications for grant projects that will sustain and grow the safety net system in Montgomery County.

HealthSpark Foundation is a private, independent foundation serving Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Our mission is to invest in nonprofit organizations, networks, and coalitions promoting a more just and healthy community. Since 2017, our efforts have focused on building a more just and effective safety net through our 10-year Safety Net Initiative. Learn more at www.healthspark.org.

This RFP reflects a continued commitment to supporting organizations dedicated to securing the Safety Net in Montgomery County. We prioritize making strategic investments in long-term solutions that will serve as a catalyst for meaningful change. We understand that sustainable impact requires more than just short-term fixes. By focusing on initiatives and projects that have the potential to create a lasting platform for positive transformation, we strive to empower organizations and communities, foster innovation, and build a foundation for long-term progress that resolves the impact of system inequities.

HealthSpark seeks projects or requests for general operating or program support that reflect the vision, guiding principles, and goals of the [Safety Net Initiative Framework](#). This systems change framework has been revised over the past few years to reflect a collective understanding and response to the work taking place in our community, as well as the impacts to the safety net system since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A snapshot of the Framework:

Vision:

We envision a resilient and financially sustainable safety net that allows anyone in MontCo to access high quality, coordinated, equitable, and culturally appropriate services no matter who they are, what they need, or where they live.

We believe that a strong safety net benefits everyone, and Montgomery County's safety net system will thrive through a shared commitment to nourish and sustain it. Montgomery County's safety net will be connected, respected, person-centered, equitable, and impactful.

System Goals (developed in consultation with our community partners):

1. **Racial and social justice:** Build the safety net system's capacity to advance racial and social justice.
2. **Full and fair resources:** Increase funding and support for the safety net, ensure the equitable use of resources, and support the well-being of safety net providers.
3. **Accessibility:** Improve accessibility of safety net services, including proximity, cultural competence, language access, and technology.
4. **Data:** Improve the use of data to inform safety net strategies and operations.
5. **Collaboration:** Facilitate collaborations and connections among safety net providers, consumers, funders, and the community.
6. **Leadership:** Support and nurture informed, just, and effective safety net leadership.

Applicants will be able to request funds either in the form of General Operating Support or Program Support:

- General Operating Support: Funds will support an organization's overall activities.
- Program Support: Funds will support a specific project or activity of the grantee, and are tied to specific, project-based outcomes.

Overhead/ administrative expenses are allowable for both types of grants.

For more information on our approach to grantmaking, please visit www.healthspark.org/grantmaking

This round of grants is funded with approximately \$300,000. HealthSpark anticipates:

- Awarding grants with a max of \$30,000 for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2024.
- Announcing award decisions during December 2023.

Further grant specifications:

- Applicants are encouraged to engage intended beneficiaries in meaningful ways into the planning, decision-making, design, and evaluation of the project.
- Projects must serve Montgomery County residents; applicants must have a 501(c)(3), or have a fiscal intermediary/sponsorship relationship, or be a religious organization, or part of Montgomery County government.
- Organizations that are not Montgomery County-based (i.e., statewide or national organizations) should clearly demonstrate their connections and work to Montgomery County, the relationships to organizations in Montgomery County, and the connection to and understanding of Montgomery County residents and their needs. Grants awarded to these regional, statewide, or national groups will be in the form of a restricted grant to benefit Montgomery County.

If you're considering applying, please reach out to Akshara Vivekananthan, Program Officer at avivekananthan@healthspark.org.

New in Our Application

HealthSpark Foundation and the VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn will be launching a pilot initiative. This initiative aims to streamline the grant application process for organizations applying to HealthSpark's Safety Net Fund and also planning to apply to the VNA Foundation in Spring 2024. Participation in this is voluntary. If you decide to participate, your entire Fall 2023 Safety Net Fund grant application will be shared with the VNA Foundation. By January 2024, the VNA Foundation will contact you to gather any additional information needed to complete their application.

Note: If you are not familiar with VNA Foundation's eligibility requirements, please consult their [website](#) for more information before opting-in, or contact Diana Doherty, Executive Director, at ddoherty@npvnafoundation.org to discuss.

Applicant Information Session

HealthSpark will host a virtual grant information session for interested applicants. The session is not mandatory, but participation is encouraged, especially for first time applicants. We also encourage you to get in touch to discuss your idea before applying.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Virtual session

[Register for the information session](#)

A recording of the session will be posted on our website on September 20, 2023.

Proposal Submission

Grants are submitted through the Foundation's grant portal, Foundant. Access the application link [here](#).

Organizations that have not applied to HealthSpark Foundation before will need to set up their account in our system first (one account per organization, please). If you are unsure if your organization already has an account established, or need assistance with login credentials, please email info@healthspark.org or call us at 215-716-5400.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, October 17, 2023, by 5 pm.