

FY24 Community Health and Safety Works

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 4.17.2024

Eligibility

- 1. Are we eligible to apply for the same project in this upcoming cycle? Does the previous award type, amount, or project site determine what we are eligible to apply for in this cycle?**

Requests for the continuation of previously funded projects are allowed.

- 2. Does the neighborhood association have to be a non-profit to apply?**

Applicants must be tax exempt nonprofit organizations or local governments. If you are not a tax exempt nonprofit, you may apply with a fiscal sponsor that is a tax exempt nonprofit. If you are applying with a fiscal sponsor, they must provide you with their tax exempt determination letter, evidence of good standing, signed W9 form, and a letter of support to upload with your application.

- 3. Can a tax exempt nonprofit act as a fiscal sponsor to more than one applicant?**

Yes.

- 4. Our organization is located just outside of the Sustainable Communities boundary but our project site is located within the Sustainable Community area. Are we ineligible for funding?**

As long as the project address is located in a Sustainable Community, you are eligible to apply.

General Program Questions

- 5. What is the minimum and maximum award amount?**

The minimum award amount is \$35,000 and the maximum award amount is \$100,000 for each funding category except Technical Assistance. The Technical Assistance track does not have a maximum award but is based on the project scope for each awardee.

6. Is a match required?

A funding match is not required.

7. Is the application on a first come first serve basis?

No, this funding round is not on a first come, first serve basis.

8. What happened to the facilities funding track for up to \$25,000 in funding?

DHCD has made some updates to the funding categories in this round of funding. Though this round does not include a Facilities category, your community may request funding for safety improvements to facilities through the Cameras, Lighting and Related Safety Services application. The application must demonstrate that the facilities improvements support the community's overall safety goals.

9. Can we fundraise privately if the funds awarded don't account for all of the proposed expenses?

Yes, and that is encouraged if it would aid a community in completing a project where DHCD funds are insufficient to cover the entire cost.

10. Is this a reimbursement grant?

No. DHCD will provide 75% of the grant amount to awardees upon execution of grant agreement and the remaining 25% upon the completion of the interim report. Awardees should expect payment to take 45 days from the time the grant agreements are executed or interim reports are approved. We encourage awardees to register with the state's General Accounting Divisions Online Service Center to receive payments electronically. [Log On to GAD's Online Service Center \(marylandtaxes.gov\)](https://logon.gad.state.md.us)

General Application Questions

11. Can we include indirect costs in the budget?

No. The budget must contain direct project expenses only, which are the costs incurred in connection with the design and delivery of projects and activities in your application.

12. We are applying as a City, therefore no board. Should we discuss the makeup of City Council? Or staff leadership instead?

You can discuss the makeup of the staff leadership.

13. How do we know which crime data to use from the suggested links in our application?

DHCD has provided links to publicly available crime and environmental health and justice data in links in the applications. You are not required to use the data here; it is provided as a resource. Depending on the project and location of your project, you may gather data from other relevant sources. Examples could include reaching out to your local police precinct for data about a hot spot for criminal activity in your community or reaching out to the appropriate local government department to see if they monitor requests for service to a dumping hot spot (Baltimore City organizations can look at 311 service requests). We ask that you use data to demonstrate your community's crime, safety or environmental health needs but it does not need to be just from the data links we included in the application. The [Community Health and Safety Works Resource & Inspiration Guide](#) includes other data sources, though the list is not exhaustive.

**14. How should a non-profit demonstrate site control over a municipally-owned site?
What documentation should we provide?**

Documentation could vary depending on the municipality's process. For the application, you might upload a letter from the municipality or another document that demonstrates that you have permission to access the site and implement a project there.

15. If we are applying under a fiscal sponsor, do we answer organizational questions from the perspective of the sponsor or the organization managing the project?

For the organizational summary section of the application, fill out the questions from the perspective of the fiscal sponsor.

16. Do we have to submit an application for one cohesive project? Can we apply in one application for funds to support pieces of multiple projects?

You can apply in one application for multiple projects.

17. For the application question asking to "Provide your organization's recent accomplishments (2021 thru 2023) in the areas targeted by this application.", by "areas" do you mean location or issue area?

The question asking you to cite your recent accomplishments refers to your accomplishments in the geographic area that you are applying to do work in.

Funding Category: Cameras, Lighting and Related Safety Services

18. Can nonprofits apply for funding to provide cameras, lighting and other safety services for businesses?

The CHSW program has funded communities in the past that wish to distribute funds to businesses and organizations within their community for surveillance and lighting technology.

19. Can the funding be for maintenance of cameras and other safety technology to maintain expenses that were made from prior rounds of CSW funding?

Applications to the FY24 round of CHSW must include the implementation of new technology. Maintenance of technology funded from a prior award may be funded alongside a new project.

20. Can the grant be used for an assessment of where surveillance can be located?

As long as implementation of that technology is also part of the project. Contractors can typically provide free estimates for surveillance technology. Organizations and communities in Baltimore City can work with the Baltimore Police Department to find the right locations for technology.

21. Can you define what “Related Safety Services” means in the application?

Related Safety Services can be anything that best improves the safety of your community. Be creative! Past awardees have implemented improved facility security systems, contracted safety personnel, and installed decorative grates on business facades, among other safety improvements. Be sure to explain how improvements to facilities improve community safety overall in the targeted area.

22. Is an application any less likely to receive funding if it's requesting support for the same initiative that has been funded in previous years? We have an ongoing safety and security program in our downtown, which needs consistent funding year over year in order to keep it running.

Applications for the same initiative are welcome and won't be scored differently. Be sure to describe how the initiative has been successful in the past and why it needs continued funding.

Funding Category: Community Placemaking

23. Can the proposal in the Community Placemaking application be for just the design and engagement portions?

Your application can include a request for funding for engagement and design for your project but the application must also include funding to implement the project.

Funding Category: Environmental Health & Justice

24. Our project is to discourage illegal dumping and will definitely involve cameras, but maybe more work at the site. How do I determine if we should apply here or the environmental health category?

Please reach out to us with specific project questions if you are unsure which funding categories to apply for.

25. Would a program/project that reduces/cleans dumping and conducts various landscape work that takes place across multiple communities in Baltimore and NOT in one specific project location be eligible?

Funding Category: Technical Assistance

26. Is there operation support for small offices that don't have the capacity for managing projects and programs?

Technical assistance may be available to support organizations without the capacity to design or implement a project but it is not set up for operating support.

27. Can we apply to the Technical Assistance track to receive technical support for our project?

The Technical Assistance funding track is for nonprofit providers that have experience providing design and implementation support to other organizations implementing community placemaking, environmental health and justice, and other community safety projects. Nonprofits that receive Technical Assistance grant funding will be responsible *for providing* technical assistance to CHSW projects. This may include helping other nonprofit organizations implement the following activities:

- Designing and facilitating an inclusive community engagement process
- Providing guidance on integrating art and cultural elements into a community space project
- Assisting artists/designers and community organizations with integrating health outcomes in community space projects
- Finding and engaging partners for environmental stewardship projects
- Assisting artists/designers and community organizations with integrating green infrastructure and climate-sensitive urban design into their community space projects
- Assisting partnerships that are developing and implementing place-based outreach and case management strategies
- Creating and evaluating a call for artists and designers for projects
- Obtaining and evaluating bids from contractors for projects
- Designing a maintenance plan for public space improvements

If you are interested in receiving Technical Assistance grant funding for your Community Health and Safety Works project, you should consider applying to one of the other funding tracks. If you have any questions about what funding track to select, you may email us at dhcd.communitysafety@maryland.gov.