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Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Making Your Communities Accessible: Mini-Grant Opportunity

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What is the CHII Mini-Grant Opportunity?

- This is an opportunity for municipalities to receive around \$12,000 to make your municipality more accessible to people with mobility limitations
- Past projects have included making trails accessible, making beach areas accessible, and making streets easier to navigate for people who use wheelchairs
- You use the Community Health Inclusion Index (a survey) to determine how you can make your community easier to navigate for people with disabilities

Why the CHII? Municipal Accessibility Improvements

- **Need:**

- Massachusetts adults with disabilities lack exercise spaces and access to the built environment:
 - 48% do not meet CDC guidelines for aerobic *or* strength-building exercise;
 - 45% name inaccessibility of exercise spaces as a major health concern.

- **Intervention:**

- Mini-grants to Massachusetts communities
 - Phase 1: use Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII) to measure accessibility of physical activity infrastructure.
 - Phase 2: make policy and environmental changes based on CHII results.

Municipal Accessibility Improvements

- **Outcomes and Impact:**

- Fourteen cities/towns participated in one or both phases of the project.
- Projects included improvements to:
 - hiking trails;
 - walking routes to schools/civic buildings;
 - community gardens;
 - swimming areas;
 - downtown shopping/strolling areas.
- Policy changes include:
 - reorganizing ADA Coordinator's office to make it more prominent and responsive to residents' needs.



A raised garden bed

Technical Assistance You will be Provided

- You will work with an independent living center with disability experts
- The Health and Disability Program will conduct 3 check-ins with you and be there whenever you have a need
- For questions about the CHII, you will have a training with NCHPAD
- You will also be invited to a seminar on racial justice and a seminar on disability justice
- Many people join the check-ins to provide you with feedback as your project is going along and address any questions you may have.

CHII RFP for this year

Plan:

- 7 communities will receive CHII mini-grants
- These grants will be for \$12,000
- Funds will be used in 2023 from January-June
- Participants will work with people with disabilities through the project cycle
- Check-ins and trainings on disability justice and racial justice will be held

Selection of Grantees

Plan:

- The RFP will guide you to easily complete the application.
- A group of DPH employees involved in the work will score applications.
- A scoresheet is listed at the end of the RFP that will tell you how applications will be scored.
- Communities will be notified in December if their project will be funded.
- In the past, we have had about the same number of applicants as slots.
- We've had many applicants who have returned to further enhance their projects.
- We encourage you to ask questions of us and apply!



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Thank You!

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