

# **BILH Behavioral Health Navigator Community Grants**

## **Request for Proposals (RFP) Information Session**

Michele Craig  
BILH Director, Community Benefits

Danelle Marable  
BILH Director, Evaluation and Data

**April 1, 2024**

Beth Israel Lahey Health





# BH Navigator RFP Info Session

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# Background

# BH Navigator Community Grant Background

- September 2022: BILH identified community behavioral health access as the system priority across its Community Benefits Service Area (CBSA) from its [Community Health Needs Assessment \(CHNA\)](#) process.
- Spring 2023: BILH undertook a process to identify opportunities to collaboratively work with community partners to address barriers faced by community residents when accessing behavioral health (mental health and substance use) care and services.
- Today: In response to input from community residents and partners throughout this process, BILH is investing in strategies that elevate messaging, amplify mental health topics and foster and fund behavioral health navigation across its CBSA, including the Behavioral Health Navigation Community Grants initiative.

# BH Navigator Community Grants

## RFP At-a-Glance

<b>Funding Available</b>	\$300,000 to 3 organizations (one in each priority community) over 3 years
<b>Priority Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Haverhill</li><li>• Lynn</li><li>• Quincy</li></ul>
<b>Important Dates</b>	April 22, 2024: Submission Deadline April 8, 2024: FAQs posted on BILH Website By June 7, 2024: Applicants Notified June 17, 2024: 3-Year Grant Term Begins June 16, 2027: 3-Year Grant Term Ends

Up-to-date information about the BH Navigator Community Grant opportunity is on the BILH Community Health Grants webpage [here](#)

# Request for Proposals (RFP) Details



# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Core Principles

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**HEALTH AND RACIAL EQUITY**: Use a health and racial equity lens to dismantle systems of oppression and work towards the systemic, fair and just treatment of people of all races, ethnicities, and communities so that all people are able to achieve their full health and overall potential.

**IMPACT**: Support evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies and programs that positively and meaningfully impact neighborhoods and populations in Boston that face the greatest health inequities.

**COMMUNITY**: Build community cohesion and capacity by actively engaging with community residents and other stakeholders, including historically underserved or underrepresented populations.

**SUSTAINABILITY**: Encourage sustained program impact through strategies that may include: leveraging funding to continue program activities, strengthening organizational and community capacity, and forming innovative partnerships and/or cross-sector collaborations.

# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Eligibility

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- Must be a tax-exempt organization (with 501(c)3 status) or a public agency
- Eligible institutions may include:
  - Community-based organizations
  - Community health centers
  - Schools
  - Coalitions
  - City agencies
- Organizations must currently serve individuals who live, learn, work or play in or across one or more of the following priority communities:
  - Haverhill
  - Lynn
  - Quincy



# BH Navigator Community Grants Priority Cohorts



**Youth**



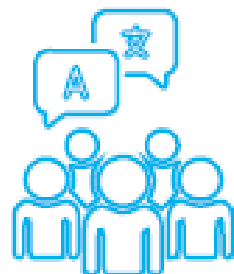
**Low-resourced  
populations**



**Older adults**



**LGBTQIA+**



**Racially, ethnically,  
and linguistically  
diverse populations**



# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Funding Expectations

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- Competitive grant opportunity to organizations (one in each priority community) with a strong track record in the focus community and the demonstrated capacity to create and implement a community-based Behavioral Health Navigator program.
- Grantees will be required to:
  - Hire, train and support a community-based Behavioral Health Navigator who will identify, understand and effectively connect community residents from at least one of the BILH priority cohorts to appropriate support and assistance.
  - Conduct educational activities with the broader community to increase knowledge and awareness of available mental health and substance use services and supports.
- Grantees will also be encouraged to participate in a no-cost training on how to help people navigate digital options for mental health and well-being, provided by BILH experts.



# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Funding Availability

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- Grants provided to a maximum of three (3) community organizations (one in each priority community)
- \$300,000 each over a 3-year period in four installments
- All grant funds will be fully disbursed by June 2026
- A review of all grants will be conducted annually to determine continued funding for years 2 and 3 based upon:
  - availability of funds
  - fulfillment of grant requirements, including evaluation and reporting.



# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Evaluation process

### Provide Plan



Evaluation outcomes has been determined by BILH; evaluator will work with grantee on best ways to implement process

### Build Capacity



Technical assistance and workshops will be offered to support data collection for learning and evaluation

### Learning & Impact



Ensure data are used to learn and refine program and report impact



# BH Navigator Community Grants Evaluation Overview

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**The purpose of the overarching BH Navigator Community Grants Evaluation is to learn across the funded organizations in their respective priority community:**

- *To what extent has the community-based Behavioral Health Navigator model shown success in connecting individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use issues from the selected priority cohort(s) to appropriate behavioral health referral, screening, assessment and treatment services and supports?*
- *To what extent have educational activities conducted with the broader community increased knowledge and awareness of available mental health and substance use services and supports?*

Metrics to be collected and tracked by each Grantee could include, but are not limited to:

- Number and demographics of individuals utilizing the behavioral health navigation services.
- Number of individuals screened and referred to services.
- Successful access and utilization of the recommended resources by navigation participants.
- Number of community members attending educational activities.
- Increased knowledge about the resources available to participants through educational activities.



# **BH Navigator Community Grants**

## **Evaluation Planning: June – September 2024**

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**In collaboration with the BILH evaluator, Grant recipients will develop an and implement an individual learning and evaluation plan.**

- Work with the BILH evaluator to understand Grantee's evaluation needs and capacity.
- Collaborate with the evaluator to create/revise a theory of change or logic model and develop a learning and evaluation plan.
- Participate in webinars and technical assistance calls and regular communication with the evaluator.
- If appropriate, participate in identifying common measures all grantees can collect.

# BH Navigator Community Grants Evaluation Plan Implementation: September 2024 – June 2027

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- Implement program activities and collect and report on data as defined in the initial planning process. Data collection should continue for program implementation through and including June 16, 2027.
- Participate in technical assistance calls with BILH evaluator as needed.
- Engage in regular communication with BILH evaluator to discuss any changes to the program implementation or evaluation plans.
- Participate in evaluation webinars provided by BILH.

Grant recipients will report on progress toward answering the evaluation questions and fulfilling the individual learning and evaluation plan on a semi-annually in October and May.

These reports may be a mixture of meeting/site visits and written materials, as determined during the planning phase.



# BH Navigator Community Grants Funding Guidelines and Budget

Funds may be used for:	Funds may not be used to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning and reporting</li><li>• Project staff salaries</li><li>• Data collection and analysis</li><li>• Meetings</li><li>• Supplies</li><li>• Related travel</li><li>• Other direct project-related expenses</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide medical services</li><li>• Support clinical trials</li><li>• Construct or renovate facilities</li><li>• Capital expenses, or</li><li>• As a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities</li></ul>

Please note:

- Indirect expenses (items associated with running the organization such as administrative staff salaries and benefits, rent, utilities, office supplies, etc.) may not exceed 15% of the total budget.
- BILH recommends that evaluation expenses total approximately 10% of an applicant’s budget to cover expenses such as use of evaluation consultants, data collection tools, translation of data collection tools into appropriate languages, software purchases related to evaluation, etc.





# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Scoring Criteria

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- Only complete applications will be reviewed by the Grant Review Committee.
- Proposals will be scored on a scale from 1 to 4 for the following areas:
  1. Organizational mission aligns with core principles
  2. History of working in priority community and selected priority cohort(s)
  3. Proposed project plan is feasible
  4. Proposed project meets a demonstrated community need
  5. Goals are reasonable and aligned with core principles
  6. Proposed project plan addresses health equities
  7. Requested funding is reasonable for proposed activities
  8. Partners and/or collaborators listed would increase the impact of the project (if applicable)
- Full list of scoring criteria is available in **Appendix B** of the RFP

# RFP Timeline and Q&A

# BH Navigator Community Grants

## RFP Timeline

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Date(s)	Action
March 22 – April 5, 2024	Q&A Period
April 22, 2024	Application due by 5:00 pm Eastern Time*
June 7, 2024	Applicants notified of grant decisions
June 17, 2024	Three-year grant term begins; 3-month planning period commences
June 16, 2027	End of grant period

\*only complete applications submitted online through BILH's Community Benefits Database will be accepted and scored



# BH Navigator Community Grants

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **1. Can an organization submit multiple applications?**

No, organizations can submit a maximum of one application as a lead organization. An organization can be listed as a partner in multiple applications, though organizations should consider their capacity to complete their responsibilities as partners should multiple projects receive funding.

### **3. Are non-profits with a fiscal agent eligible to apply?**

Non-profit organizations with a fiscal agent (also known as a fiscal sponsor or fiduciary) are eligible to apply for funding.

# Question and Answer

Please email any questions to the Community Benefits team at [michele.craig@bilh.org](mailto:michele.craig@bilh.org) by April 5, 2024.

Responses will be posted on the BILH Community Health Grants website [here](#) by April 8, 2024.

**Thank you!**