

CORE GRANTS PROGRAM GOALS & GUIDELINES

Goals

The purpose of Michael Reese Health Trust's Core Grants is to strengthen both program quality and organizational capacity. By focusing on agency capacity and linking agency capacity support to programming, the objective is to ultimately improve the quality and sustainability of programs.

Core grants focus on planning for and supporting staff, volunteers and activities fundamental to the organization's health-related mission, quality of services, mission-related infrastructure needs, and sustainability of the agency and its health services. Use of evidence-based practices or using the Core grant to systematically learn about and implement evidence-based practices is encouraged. Participation in this program requires a willingness to share findings and lessons learned in order to assist other programs.

MRHT believes that effective and sustainable programs in the context of complex and ever-changing environments require:

- 1) the ability to attract, train, and maintain outstanding people: staff, board and volunteers;
- 2) practical planning for institutional efficiencies;
- 3) implementation of evidence-based programs;
- 4) appropriate infrastructure and organizational strengths (e.g., funding streams, information technology, human resources, fiscal management, objective and useful program evaluation, etc.)

Scope

The Michael Reese Health Trust accepts multi-year Core grant proposals for **up to three years** with a **maximum of \$100,000 per year**. Amounts and time frame will be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with Senior Program Officer, Jennifer Rosenkranz.

Technical Assistance, Consulting & Coaching Support

Core Grants may include support for technical assistance from appropriately matched professionals and / or intermediary organizations, along with the organization's detailed plan for use of such assistance.

Goal Setting and Accountability

Proposals must include annual performance goals along with clearly defined indicators of success in achieving goals. If invited to submit a proposal, we will ask that you specifically identify goals and key elements, as well as clarify associated strategies and details in your narrative.

Submission Process

Core Grant proposals are only accepted by invitation from MRHT staff. Please contact Jennifer Rosenkranz, jrosenkranz@healthtrust.net or 312.726.1008, to discuss your Core grant concept and proposed strategies. If you are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry for a Core grant, we will email you directions for using our online application process. Deadlines for submission of the Core grant Letter of Inquiry are June 15 and December 15. Only a small number of such grants will be awarded each year.