

GRANT ANALYSIS FORM

OPERATING & CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Department/Division: **Health Department**

Contact Person & Phone No: **Dr. Geoffrey Swain, X8172**

Category of Request

- ☒ **New Contribution Account**
- ☐ **Grant Continuation**
- ☐ **Change in Previously Approved Grant**

Previous Council File No.

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Project/Program Title: Health Inequities Contribution Account

Grantor Agency: Various Contributors

Grant Application Date: September 2013

Anticipated Award Date: On-Going

Please provide the following information:

1. Description of Grant Project/Program (Include Target Locations and Populations):

The objectives of MHD's Health Inequities initiatives are a) to increase awareness of the effects that "upstream" socioeconomic factors have on "downstream" health outcomes, and b) in partnership with others, to improve health and reduce health disparities by addressing these "upstream" socioeconomic factors.

2. Relationship to City-wide Strategic Goals and Departmental Objectives:

The MHD's city-wide goals include: enhance the health and well-being of Milwaukee residents by improving access to preventive health care; promote healthy behaviors; assure safe and healthy homes, businesses and neighborhoods; reduce racial and ethnic health disparities; and improve the quality of healthcare information and coordination of services. However, despite common belief to the contrary, abundant scientific evidence shows clearly that socioeconomic factors are much more important in driving health outcomes than access to healthcare or healthy behaviors. Therefore, in order to effectively improve health and reduce health disparities, the City (including MHD) must also address these "upstream" socioeconomic factors, which include issues such as social support and social cohesion, neighborhood violence, housing affordability and quality, poverty, unemployment, educational attainment, and availability of affordable, quality childcare and early childhood programs.

3. Need for Grant Funds and Impact on Other Departmental Operations (Applies only to Programs):

Although a few small efforts to address socioeconomic circumstances are currently in place (e.g., referrals to social service agencies as needed), currently, no MHD O&M funds are available to directly focus on the socioeconomic factors that drive poor health outcomes and unacceptable health disparities in our community. Therefore, these health inequities initiatives rely on external funding.

4. Results Measurement/Progress Report (Applies only to Programs):

MHD's Health Inequities initiatives include a broad range of interventions, from referring individual clients to social service (or other) agencies to address individual needs (e.g., education, employment, vocational training, child care, etc.) to training health professionals about the impact of socioeconomic factors, to consultation with policymakers regarding the potential health impacts of non-health policies and programs (e.g., Transitional Jobs, or Treatment Alternatives to Prison). Individual donors to this contribution account may provide unrestricted funds to be used to address Health Inequities broadly, or they may provide targeted funds aimed at one or more specific "upstream" factors. Results of specific interventions are measured on a specific case-by-case basis, while the overall results of MHD's Health Inequities initiatives broadly are assessed over long periods of time through measures like trends in disparities in key health outcomes (e.g., infant mortality rates or life expectancy) between various groups (e.g., by zip code of residence, level of education or income, race/ethnicity, etc.).

5. Grant Period, Timetable and Program Phase-out Plan:

Approaching these "upstream" socioeconomic factors as essential contributors to health and health disparities is gaining enormous momentum in local health departments across the US. Some public health professionals suggest that this is the area in which public health practice should focus the majority of its efforts in the future. Therefore, this program is intended to be open-ended, and no time-table for a phase-out plan is recommended at this time.

Contribution Account established for contributions up to an initial \$200,000 at which time additional authority is required to continue.

6. Provide a List of Subgrantees:

N/A

7. If Possible, Complete Grant Budget Form and Attach.