HFNJ Healthy Aging Initiative Request for Proposals

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey (HFNJ) was founded by the Jewish community through the sale of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (The "Beth"), which gave Jewish doctors a place to practice at a time when discriminatory practices barred them from working elsewhere. The mission of The Beth was always to serve the entire community. This legacy lives on through our work today, which is guided by Jewish values, in particular *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *tzedakah* (charity and righteousness). HFNJ today continues to work with a range of community partners in Newark and its environs and the Jewish MetroWest communities. HFNJ has a deep commitment to ensuring that all those we work with feel safe, respected, and valued. Our deep commitment to humanism in medicine ensures that no organization that we fund, or its affiliates, engages in any form of hateful and/or discriminatory speech or activity or antisemitic behavior as outlined in our anti-hate statement. Complying with this statement is a condition of receiving any HFNJ grant.

HFNJ Healthy Aging Initiative Background

HFNJ recognizes the growing needs of an expanding aging population in New Jersey and has allocated funding to a special initiative on healthy aging beginning in 2027.

Over the past six months, the staff and board of HFNJ have conducted extensive research and interviews with experts and older adults and convened 41 community partners, subject matter experts, and county offices serving older adults in Newark and Greater MetroWest NJ to better understand the challenges facing older adults and promising approaches to addressing them in our catchment area. We have heard repeatedly about the challenges of *social isolation, aging in place,* and *care coordination* and have learned about promising models such as age-friendly healthcare systems, community-based social engagement, case management, and care coordination programs.

Purpose

The goals of this initiative are to promote aging in place, facilitate functional independence, support social connections and community participation, and strengthen access to healthcare and care coordination. We are investing across the ecosystem

(e.g., hospitals, medical clinics, and community-based organizations) in recognition of the need to ensure that all institutions and systems supporting older adults are equipped to respond to their unique and complex needs. Our objective is to see measurable impact of funded projects on older adults' health, wellbeing, independence, and connectedness.

Opportunity

Grants of up to $175,000 per year will be awarded to a limited number of organizations serving older adults in our catchment area. We anticipate awarding two grants of up to $100,000 per year to healthcare systems (including hospitals, clinics, FQHCs, etc.) and four to five grants of up to $175,000 per year to community-based organizations. Some grants may be renewable for up to three years.

Programs must address one or more of the following areas: social isolation, aging in place, care coordination, or age-friendly health systems (e.g., training staff in age-friendly practices and creating systems, policies, and structures that respond to the needs of older adults outside of specialized geriatric care). Applicants are encouraged to consider relevant barriers and supports that cut across these focus areas, including transportation, technology access and use, outreach and service navigation, and the needs of caregivers, including access to information, education, and resources related to caring for older adults.

Priority will be given to programs that:

- Build staff capacity, knowledge, and skills to provide empathic, person-centered services to older adults, aligning with the Foundation's emphasis on humanism. Applicants should demonstrate that older adult stakeholders will provide input into programming and that programming follows a person-centered model, including trauma-informed approaches such as PCTI (person-centered trauma-informed care) where appropriate.
- **Involve collaboration among multiple agencies**. Where appropriate, we encourage applicants to have a lead organization that partners with several specialized community organizations. Because of the relatively low number of grants that will be awarded in this initiative (approximately six or seven), collaboration among agencies will offer opportunities for more organizations to be involved.
- Identify evidence-based models (such as CAPABLE, age-friendly health systems, PEARLS, etc.) and replicate them in our community catchment area(s).
- Focus on the community's most vulnerable older adults who have limited access to adequate healthcare.

- Demonstrate how their proposed approach is responsive to the specific needs and context of the community they intend to serve, including linguistic, cultural, and socioeconomic considerations.

Evaluating Impact

All funded programs will need to demonstrate careful evaluation of their impact on older adults. Applicants should track relevant program outputs necessary to assess program reach and implementation (e.g., number of older adults served, services delivered, referrals made, etc.).

Applicants will be required to identify and measure 3–5 key outcomes appropriate to the proposed project, including one or more of the following health-related outcomes, as applicable:

- Improved access to and coordination of healthcare and supportive services
- Decreased social isolation (e.g., feelings of loneliness, levels of social contact, sense of belonging)
- Decreased healthcare utilization (e.g., emergency department visits, 30-day readmission, length of stay)
- Improved health and wellbeing (e.g., falls/fall risk, mental health, chronic disease control, pain, etc.)
- Stable or improved functional independence (e.g., ability to perform activities of daily living, mobility, healthy days at home, etc.)

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive funding under this initiative, the following guidelines apply:

- Applicants must have a 501c3 IRS tax designation and have been operating for a minimum of five years.
- HFNJ will award grants to non-profit organizations that support older adults in Newark NJ and its environs (e.g., Bloomfield, Irvington, East Orange, Orange) or in the catchment area of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, which includes Essex, Morris, Somerset, Union, and parts of Sussex counties. Organizations primarily serving populations outside of these areas will not be considered. State-wide or national organizations with activities in Newark and Greater MetroWest are eligible to apply but must demonstrate local partnerships and presence on the ground in the communities we serve.
- Funding requests will not be considered for: scholarships or tuition, housing, food insecurity, individual healthcare needs, fundraising events, or lobbying and advocacy.

- Funds may not be used solely to support the continuation of existing programs but must include activities that are new or different. Examples include: a new initiative, innovative training for staff, reaching a different population, expanding services, adding a new component to an existing program, etc.
- Organizations that meet the eligibility criteria may apply regardless of whether they have an active grant or have received a grant from HFNJ within the past 12 months. For purposes of this RFP, the Foundation's usual restrictions on the timing of subsequent grant applications will not apply.

How to Apply

All prospective applicants must fill out this form in order to be considered for the opportunity to submit a full application. Please provide details about the specific project you are proposing. Staff will review your form and contact those organizations that are invited to submit a full proposal.

Schedule

- **Pre-submission deadline**: December 10, 2026
- **Submission deadline:** February 10, 2027
- **Grant presentations:** April-May 2027
- **Grants awarded:** Late June 2027

An informational webinar with an opportunity to ask questions will be held via Zoom on **November 17** at **9:30 AM** at the following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6971801356

For questions, please contact:

Sara Gorman, PhD, Program Officer, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

Telephone: 973-921-1210, ext. 1103 or email: sgorman@hfnj.org