

Health Zones, Maryland Community Health Resource Commission

\$14.0 Million (M00R01.03)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission shall provide grants to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, improve access to primary care, promote primary and secondary prevention services, and reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions. Any funds allocated but remain unspent at the end of fiscal year 2021 are retained by the Commission.

May 5 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- Stand-alone legislation in the General Assembly this year, SB 172/HB 463, is currently enrolled and is awaiting the Governor's approval. The legislation establishes "Health Equity Resources Communities" and MCHRC staff is preparing to implement the provisions of the bill and the Relief Act. Immediate activities include: 1) working with MDH, the Governor's Office, and Presiding Officers to fill the appointments on the newly established HERC Advisory Committee by July 1, 2021; 2) recruiting immediately for the HERC Project Director; and 3) developing the competitive Pathways RFP for release during Summer 2021 for the initial funding (approximately \$13M) in accordance with the language of the RELIEF Act.

May 5 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- None anticipated.