While the decisions made at the federal, state, and county level affect the health care system, a person's health is driven by the individual and his or her community. Improving health takes a combination of system- and community-designed solutions. Too often, however, the focus is on system improvements rather than supporting and encouraging the individual and community to take charge of their own health.

Since 2012, the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio's Community Connections initiative has helped lay the groundwork for helping bring community partners together to improve health. Because changes in health and healthy behaviors rely on solutions built upon the strengths and needs of the people living in the community, HealthPath has chosen to support community residents as they identify the changes they want to see and work to reach their goals.

What HealthPath Means by Community-Driven

Community-driven projects are those that are designed and developed with direct resident input. This goes beyond an organization simply having a community resident or two on your board of directors: it means you have developed relationships with the people in your community, you have asked them about the problems and what would help them solve those problems, and you have developed a solution in partnership with them. Community-driven projects build upon the strengths of the community to make changes from within.

Because our service area varies widely, HealthPath will ask applicants to define the "community" they will serve. This could be a few blocks, neighborhood, village or town, single school building's population, parish or other faith community, or other group of people connected by geography, membership, or other commonality. We are interested in local projects that address the needs of people living in a small area, not county-wide or multi-county projects.

Community-Driven Review Process

HealthPath uses volunteer proposal readers to review full proposals, provide context about the communities in which the applicants work, and make recommendations for funding. We will provide a training webinar to walk readers through the proposal and what HealthPath is looking for in projects to fund. We'll send proposals to the readers and give you ample time to review the proposals for your geographic area. The readers will also meet in-person to discuss proposals and provide feedback to HealthPath staff, who will summarize the recommendations to present to our board. Using the community feedback, the HealthPath Board of Directors will make the final decision on which proposals are funded.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the volunteer proposal reader panel, please visit http://www.healthpathohio.org/Working-Together/Volunteer for more information.

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Who Can Apply

Health and social service care providers, neighborhood clubs or groups, social and civic organizations, youth groups, school groups, 4-H clubs, scout troops, senior centers, faith-based organizations, colleges or universities, school districts, and other nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. The Foundation will also consider grant requests from government or quasi-government agencies that demonstrate a strong relationship with the community.

We are also splitting our service area into quadrants, and communities within two quadrants will be eligible to apply. If you are located outside a designated area but serve counties inside it, you are eligible to apply during that quadrant's year. However, you will have to make a strong case for how you serve and are a part of that community in your proposal.
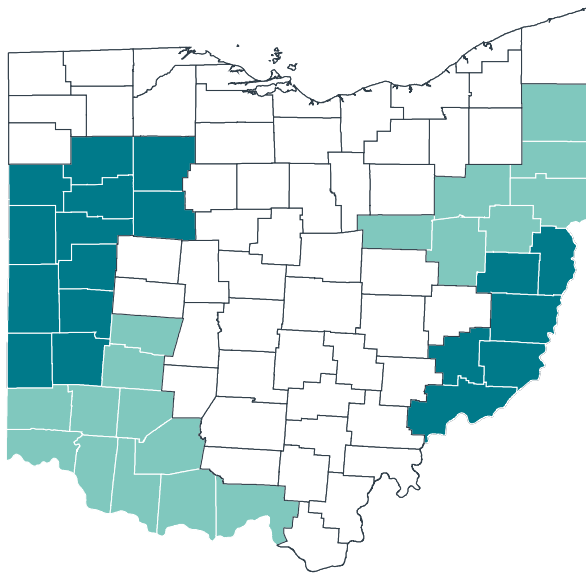
Eligible in 2017, 2019
- Allen
- Auglaize
- Belmont
- Darke
- Hancock
- Hardin
- Harrison
- Jefferson
- Mercer
- Miami
- Monroe
- Montgomery
- Noble
- Preble
- Putnam
- Shelby
- Van Wert
- Washington

Eligible in 2018, 2020
- Adams
- Brown
- Butler
- Carroll
- Clark
- Clermont
- Clinton
- Columbiana
- Greene
- Hamilton
- Highland
- Holmes
- Mahoning
- Scioto
- Stark
- Trumbull
- Tuscarawas
- Warren

What HealthPath Will Fund

We are interested in community-driven projects that address our result areas:

Focus Area	Result Area	Result
Preventive Oral Health Care	Cavity-Free Kids	Ohio's children ages 0–12 have healthy mouths
Strengthening Ohio's Safety Net	Healthy Ohioans	Ohioans have access to the services they need to be healthy
Prevention of Family Violence	Safe Elders	Older adults living in the community are safe and supported

Proposed projects should involve community residents in planning and implementation, respond to the needs of the community, and fall within one of the following strategies:

Cavity-Free Kids
- Oral health educational campaigns focused on drinking water instead of other liquids
- Oral health education in schools or early childhood programs

Healthy Ohioans
- Health promotion programs that encourage families and community residents to talk about and engage in healthy behaviors
- Programs to bring fresh, healthy foods to food deserts

Safe Elders
- Multi-generational initiatives that support older adults living in the community
- Community awareness campaigns that increase the visibility of older adults
- Programs to create a more age-friendly community

Within any Result Area
- Programs that teach parents about how to talk with their children about health
- Programs that provide youth with hands-on, problem-based learning around health and health issues

If you have questions about an idea you have for a program and whether it will fit within the initiative guidelines, please contact Christine Mulvin, Senior Program Officer, at christine.mulvin@healthpathohio. org or 513-768-6117.

HEALTHPATH For additional information about The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio visit www.healthpathohio.org.