

# **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**COMMUNITY ACTION FOR SAFETY, CONNECTION,  
AUTONOMY, AND DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTS (CASCADE):**

## **FUNDING FOR INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN MICHIGAN**

### **ANTICIPATED PROJECT PERIOD**

November 1, 2024 – September 30, 2028

### **APPLICATIONS DUE**

September 6, 2024 – 11:59 p.m. ET

This RFP (Request for Proposal) is a summary of the opportunity.  
For more details, please visit the [Applicant Handbook](#).



# 2024 CASCADE APPLICATION TIMELINE

**July 29, 2024**

Full [Request for Applications and Applicant Support Docs](#) released

[Application Portal](#) opened

**July 31, 2024**

[Informational webinar](#)

**July 30 - August 30, 2024**

Applicants may ask questions and request accommodations [HERE](#)

**September 6, 2024**

Applications due at 11:59PM ET

**October 4, 2024**

Awards announced

# CASCADE Project Description

We must work together to change the institutional, community, and societal systems that allow sexual violence to continue in Michigan communities. The Community Action for Safety, Connection, Autonomy, and Desirable Environments (CASCADE) Project is a partnership of state and local organizations that represent and serve 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other representative identities and expressions) Michiganders who also identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Disabled. CASCADE anticipates funding organizations and collaboratives for approximately four (4) years (November 1, 2024-September 30, 2028, contingent on available funds).



## Proposed activities must align with the CASCADE Project's North Star:

**To create protective environments and/or promote positive social norms that stop sexual violence before it starts and support Black, Indigenous, and Disabled 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in flourishing.**

By implementing **community/societal-level primary prevention strategies** (e.g. policies, practices, and norms) that focus on promoting bodily autonomy and/or community connectedness, we can effectively reduce the likelihood of sexual violence, especially for Michiganders experiencing intersecting marginalizations.

# Summary of Eligible Applicants & Activities

*Eligible applicants* must be located within Michigan. Eligible entities include 501(c)(3) nonprofits, collaborative bodies with a nonprofit backbone organization or fiduciary, or government entities such as local public health departments or federally recognized Tribes. For-profit organizations and individuals are not eligible to be funded by this grant. Applicant organizations or collaboratives must show a history of positive engagement with 2SLGBTQIA+ Michiganders who have intersecting Black, Indigenous, and/or Disabled identities. Applicants must prove they have non-discrimination and/or affirming policies in place related to the following identities: race, religion, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs, and disability. While a formal audit is not required, eligible applicants cannot have significant findings or questioned costs from a certified financial audit or certified/independently reviewed financial statements. Applicants must already have funding to support at least one (1) FTE of employee time. In other words, a minimum of one full-time or multiple part-time employees that work a total of 30 hours per week. Finally, while it is not a requirement, applicants would preferably be led or staffed by those from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities who also identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Disabled

*Eligible activities* must address CASCADE's priority protective factors and prevention strategies identified through the Michigan Community Sexual Violence Prevention Assessment.

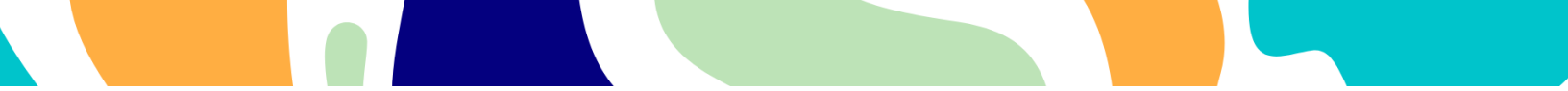
## Proposed projects must implement AT LEAST ONE (or both) prevention strategies:

- › **Promote Positive Social Norms:** setting up the expectation and acceptance of healthy attitudes, behaviors, programs, and policies within communities to improve health and safety  
*and/or;*
- › **Create Protective Environments:** addressing areas where community members feel less safe and creating an atmosphere free from harassment or violence.

## Proposed projects must also aim to change one or both of CASCADE's two protective factors against sexual violence:

- › **Bodily Autonomy:** the freedom to complete control over one's own body in making decisions about one's own life, such as sexuality, romantic and intimate relationships, reproduction, and medical care  
*and/or;*
- › **Community Connectedness:** the level of cohesion, trust, and sense of safety among community members who multiple identities and experiences.

Applicants should select the protective factor(s) and the prevention strategy(ies) that are most appropriate for their selected focus community(ies). Proposed activities must clearly reflect the




needs and strengths of these communities and focus on improving community/societal-level physical and social structures that protect against violence. Applicants should propose a project that could feasibly span the length of the grant's planned project period (November 1, 2024-September 30, 2028).

CASCADE would prefer applicants begin implementation of all prevention strategies at the start of Year 1. However, some applicants may need to build capacity before full implementation is possible. To support this growth, **applicants may propose to spend a portion of Year 1 funds** (February 1, 2025-January 31, 2026) **on time-limited organizational or collaborative body capacity** building activities that ready them to begin all prevention strategies before the start of Year 2.

*Note: Capacity building cannot comprise the entirety of Year 1 activities. Applicants must propose at least one Prevention Strategy-focused Year 1 Objective that will start at the beginning of Year 1.*

*Eligible focus communities* must be at the intersection of the 2SLGBTQIA+ and Black, Indigenous, and/or Disabled communities in Michigan. This grant will support community-level and societal-level activities that promote positive social norms and/or create protective environments specifically for these communities. We understand that work at these intersections may not have been done previously and collaboration between communities or organizations will be required to make these activities possible. As such, applicants can propose capacity building activities as a portion of their work during Year 1 year and/or apply on behalf of a collaborative group.

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the **Applicant Handbook**, page 4 as it contains more information on requirements and eligibility.*



# Summary of Funding

The CASCADE Grant's planned project period is November 1, 2024, through September 30, 2028<sup>1</sup>. We anticipate funds will be dispersed over five budget periods. Awardees will be invited to apply for annual renewal based on performance and available funding. NOTE: There is no guarantee of future project funding.

- › ***Budget for Start Up:*** November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025 (Maximum Funding: \$25,000)
- › ***Budget Year 1 (abbreviated):*** February 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 (Estimated Max Funding: \$66,000)
- › ***Budget Year 2:*** October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 (Estimated Max Funding: \$100,000)
- › ***Budget Year 3:*** October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 (Estimated Max Funding: \$100,000)
- › ***Budget Year 4:*** October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028 (Estimated Max Funding: \$100,000)

We anticipate making approximately four (4) CASCADE awards. Awardees will receive a Start Up Budget of up to \$25,000 and may request a Year 1 (abbreviated) Budget of up to \$66,000. Awardees may request up to \$100,000 annually for Years 2-4 of the program. Selected CASCADE grant awardees will enter into a contractual agreement with the Michigan Public Health Institute, following review and approval of contract terms by MDHHS. Awardees will submit monthly invoices to be reimbursed for the cost of deliverables completed. Awardees may use funds for reasonable program purposes including personnel, travel, supplies/materials, subcontracts, and indirect costs. These expenses must be identified and justified in the application's **budget** and **work plan**.

Implementation of prevention strategies is expected to begin at the start of Year 1. However, some applicants may need to build partnerships and better understand the needs and strengths of the intersectional 2SLGBTQIA+ and Black, Indigenous, or Disabled community they select before starting prevention strategy activities. To support both swift and effective implementation, applicants may propose to spend a portion of Year 1 funds (February 1, 2025-January 31, 2026) on activities that ready them to start their **prevention strategies** before the start of Year 2. *Note: At least one Prevention Strategy Objective must be proposed to start on February 1, 2025.*

CASCADE funds may not be used to substitute for or replace funds already allocated or spent for the same activity. In addition, grant funds may not be used for: construction or renovation of facilities, lobbying, travel unrelated to the project, research, clinical care, food (in most cases), equipment or furniture expenses greater than \$5,000, or pre-award costs.

See the ***CASCADE Applicant Handbook***, page 5 for more information on eligible and ineligible activities and expenses.

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<sup>1</sup> Funding for this grant is administered by Michigan Public Health Institute, on behalf of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The funds originate from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program.

# Grant Application & Supports

Applications must be submitted through MPHI's Community Action for Safety, Connection, Autonomy, and Desirable Environments (CASCADE) Grant Application [REDCap portal](#) by 11:59 PM ET on September 6, 2024. No registration is required to access REDCap. Applicants will fill out the Application Form and upload a Work Plan and Budget for the Start-Up budget period (November 2024 – January 2025) and Year 1 of the project (February 2025 – September 2025) in REDCap. The Application Form does not have a word limit function, but applicants should make their responses as concise as possible.

Visit the [CASCADE Grant Page](#) for the following resources:

- CASCADE RFA (*this document*)
- CASCADE Applicant Handbook
- CASCADE Application Support & Accommodation Form
- CASCADE Work Plan Template
- CASCADE Budget Template
- CASCADE Informational Webinar
- CASCADE RFA FAQ

Applicants are invited to submit questions or requests for accommodation through the **Request for Application Support & Accommodation Form**. The CASCADE team will review all requests and work to provide support. Applicants are encouraged to check for updated questions and answers in the **CASCADE RFP FAQ document**.

If you are a federally recognized Tribe, a Tribal organization, urban Indian, or other Native-serving organization and would like customized technical assistance, accommodations, or support for your application, please contact Shannon Laing directly (information below).

**For general questions about how to use the question/accommodation request form, please contact the Project Coordinator.**

## **Marlena Moore**

CASCADE Project Coordinator  
Center for Healthy Communities  
Michigan Public Health Institute  
[mmoore@mphi.org](mailto:mmoore@mphi.org)

**Tribes/Tribal and Native-serving organizations contact:**

## **Shannon Laing**

Director of Native Health and Wellness  
Center for Healthy Communities  
Michigan Public Health Institute  
[slaing@mphi.org](mailto:slaing@mphi.org)

# GRANT APPLICATION FORM

*Provided only for reference. Applicants must submit responses in the MPHI (Michigan Public Health Institute) [REDCap portal](#)*

## General Information

Applicants may choose to propose strategies led by a collaborative body in addition to (or instead of) strategies led by one organization. Will the activities for this project primarily be implemented by a single organization, a **collaborative body**, or both?

Single Organization     Collaborative Body     Both

## Lead Applicant

Organization primarily leading and implementing the project.

*Note: If a collaborative is a primary implementer, the Backbone Organization managing the grant will be considered the “lead applicant.” Information on the collaborative will be provided below. If a fiduciary will be managing the grant but not acting as primary implementer, provide their information in the “Fiduciary” section below.*

**Organization Name:**

**Primary Contact Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Website** (if applicable):

**Federal Employer ID (EIN) or Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) if applicable:**

## Collaborative

*Only applicable if a collaborative is a primary implementer of the project*

**Collaborative Name:**

**Primary Contact Name:**

**Website** (if applicable):

**Key confirmed members:**

## Fiduciary or Fiscal Agent

Only applicable for applicants wanting another organization to manage funding outside of the Lead Applicant

**Fiduciary Name:**

**Phone:**

**Primary Contact Name:**

**Email:**

**Address:**

**EIN or DUNS:**

## Project Contacts

**CONTACT 1** (may be same as above)

**CONTACT 2**

**Name:**

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Title:**

**Phone:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Email:**

## Organizational Eligibility

To apply for this grant, the lead applicant and/or the collaborative (if applicable) must meet the following eligibility criteria. See Application Guidebook for more details.

- 1) Is the lead applicant (and collaborative if applicable) located within Michigan?**  
 Yes    No
- 2) Is the lead applicant a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, a Tribal organization, a federally recognized Tribe, or a local government entity such as a public health department (or sponsored by a fiduciary that is)?**  Yes    No
- 3) Does the lead applicant (and/or collaborative if applicable) have strong ties within Black, Indigenous, and/or Disabled 2SLGBTQIA+ communities?**  Yes    No
- 4) Does the lead applicant already have funding to support at least 1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) employee? (In other words, do you have full-time or part-time employees paid to work 30 hours per week or more collectively?)**  Yes    No

*If you respond No to any of the questions above, your entity may not be eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. You can contact Marlena Moore ([mmoore@mphi.org](mailto:mmoore@mphi.org)) discuss potential options to support eligibility. We encourage you to seek out a partnership with another organization to collaborate on an application.*

## Project Overview

- 5) What is the name of your project?
- 6) Provide a one-sentence description of your project.
- 7) How much funding are you requesting to support your project for each of the following periods?
  - › **Start-up period:** November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025 (Up to \$25,000)
  - › **Budget Year 1** (abbreviated): February 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 (Up to \$66,000)
- 8) *While there is no guarantee of funding beyond Year 1 for selected grantees, we anticipate dispersing funds through September 30, 2028, contingent on performance and available funding. For Budget Years 2-4 of the program, we anticipate awardees may request up to \$100,000 annually. Please indicate how much funding you plan to request for each of the following budget years to support your project.*
  - › **Budget Year 2:** October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 (Estimated Max Funding: \$100,000)
  - › **Budget Year 3:** October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 (Estimated Max Funding: \$100,000)
  - › **Budget Year 4:** October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028 (Estimated Max Funding: \$100,000)
- 9) Which geographic areas will your project impact? This includes identifying county(ies), city(ies), tribal reservation, or jurisdictional service area.

## CASCADE Priorities

- 10) Which **protective factor(s)** will your project impact? (Select all that apply. You must select at least one.)  
 Bodily Autonomy                       Community Connectedness
- 11) Which **prevention strategy(ies)** will your project impact? (Select all that apply. You must select at least one.)  
 Promote positive social norms                       Create protective environments
- 12) Which **focus community(ies)** will your project impact? (Select all that apply. You must select at least one.)  
 Black 2SLGBTQIA+                       Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+                       Disabled 2SLGBTQIA+

*Note: The number of protective factors, prevention strategies, or focus communities you choose to address will not impact funding decisions.*

## Lead Applicant Overview

*Primary implementing organization OR backbone organization of a collaborative*

- 13) Provide a brief overview of how the mission/vision/values and programming of the lead applicant align with CASCADE's North Star and protective factors.** For applicants without a formal mission/vision/values statement, provide an overview of how the lead applicant has shown its commitment and alignment with CASCADE's North Star and protective factors.

Reminder: CASCADE's North Star is "To create protective environments and/or promote positive social norms that stop sexual violence before it starts and support Black, Indigenous, and Disabled 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in flourishing."

- 14) What geographic areas are served by the lead applicant?**

## Collaborative Overview, *if applicable*

*Applicants may choose to propose strategies led by a collaborative body in addition to (or instead of) strategies led by one organization.*

**Note: The following questions are to be completed only by applicants proposing strategies led by a Collaborative Body.**

- 15) Provide a brief overview of how the collaborative body's mission/vision/values and programming align with CASCADE's North Star and protective factors.** For collaborative bodies without a formal mission/vision/values statement, provide an overview of how the collaborative's efforts have shown their commitment and alignment with CASCADE's North Star and protective factors.

Reminder: CASCADE's North Star is "To create protective environments and/or promote positive social norms that stop sexual violence before it starts and support Black, Indigenous, and Disabled 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in flourishing."

- 16) What geographic areas are served by your collaborative?**

## Connections to Community

- 17) To what extent does the lead applicant's staff and leadership represent your selected focus communities?** If you are proposing strategies led by a collaborative body, share the same about this group.

- 18) Tell us about the lead applicant's previous work in your selected focus communities; and how you have worked to build and sustain trust.** If you are proposing strategies led by a collaborative body, share the same about this group.

- 19) What community needs are you hoping to meet through this project? What community strengths or assets are you planning to build upon?**

## Project Description

- 20) Describe your proposed project in approximately 500 words.** Include major strategies/activities you plan to implement and what you plan to achieve for each year of the four-year grant.
- 21) Describe any other collaborations and partnerships that will support and/or be part of the project (e.g., consultants, community-based allied organizations).** Explain how each partner will be involved in the work (e.g. specific coordinated activities, consultations, resource sharing).
- 22) How will this project meet the goals of this grant program?** Specifically, how will it:
- › promote **bodily autonomy and/or community connectedness** in your focus communities?
  - › promote **positive social norms and/or create protective environments** for your selected focus communities?
  - › make and sustain change at the **community/societal level**?
- 23) Awardees may use some of their funds during the Start Up Period and Year 1 to build organizational and/or collaborative body capacity. (Please refer to the ***RPF Handbook's Grant Eligibility section here*** for a list of eligible activities.) If proposing capacity building activities, describe the activities and how they will prepare the lead applicant and/or collaborative to be ready to start implementation of the project/initiative before October 1, 2025.**
- 24) Why is the lead applicant (and collaborative if applicable) a good fit to implement this project?** Please share details about your previous success(es) that highlight your ability to effectively complete this project; and/or demonstrate how your knowledge, relationships, leadership, cultural fluency, etc. will help you achieve your outcomes.

## Attachments

- 25) Upload one (1) workplan file. It should contain workplans for each of the following project periods.** (Refer to the **CASCADE Work Plan Instructions** for details on formatting and content. The maximum file upload size is 100MB.)
- › Start Up Period (November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025)
  - › Year 1 (February 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025)
- 26) Upload one (1) budget file. It should contain budgets for each of the following project periods.** (Refer to the **CASCADE Budget Instructions** and **Budget Example** for details on formatting and content. The maximum file upload size is 100MB.)
- › Start Up Period (November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025)
  - › Year 1 (February 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025)