



Somerville Health Foundation



The Somerville Health Foundation (SHF) was established on June 26, 1996 in the Affiliation Agreement executed by Somerville Hospital and the Cambridge Hospital when those hospitals merged. Under the terms of the Agreement, Somerville Hospital incorporated a new nonprofit corporation known as the Somerville Health Foundation, Inc. Somerville resident Margaret Hutchinson left the endowment that has funded the Foundation.

The SHF has two main purposes. It is the Foundation's goal to provide financial resources for projects or activities which will enable it to fulfill these purposes:

- to promote and support the provision of primary care and preventive health services accessible to the residents of the City of Somerville, Massachusetts
- to promote and support educational, research and outreach programs that will improve the delivery and accessibility of primary care and preventive health services to the residents of the City of Somerville, Massachusetts.

SHF PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2025-2026 FUNDING

The Foundation invites proposals for projects that relate to its major purposes as stated above. The current priorities for funding support are programs/projects **with a prime emphasis on the three equity principles that emerged from the [CHA 2022 Regional Wellbeing Report](#). These principles are language justice, inclusion of underrepresented voices in leadership and decision making, and system improvements that encourage spaces for collective care.** Proposals that also address the following preventative health priorities will receive extra consideration.

1. **Housing:** This priority area can include, but is not limited to, addressing concerns such as housing affordability, stability and anti-displacement, safety, accessibility (e.g. for older adults and persons with disabilities), as well as homelessness and transitions to stable housing.
2. **Equitable economies:** This priority area can include, but is not limited to, addressing concerns related to sustainable food systems, local jobs with living wages and benefits, healthy working conditions, and caregiving systems.
3. **Equity in access to healthcare, services and information:** This priority area can include, but is not limited to, addressing elements such as costs, cultural and linguistic barriers, navigation of systems, referral systems, adequate staffing, transportation, digital access, quality, disability, and other aspects of accessibility of systems. Systems of note

include healthcare (including mental healthcare) and other essential services and information, such as education, economic development opportunities, financial support, legal services and advocacy.

4. **Climate health and justice: air, water, preparedness:** This priority area can include addressing concerns related to air quality, water quality, and climate change preparedness in recognition that the health impacts of climate change and exposure to environmental hazards are disproportionately shouldered by low-income communities and communities of color.

For data to inform proposals, explore the most recent [Somerville Community Data Profile](#). Projects that align with multiple priorities and/or issues raised in the [2022 CHA Regional Wellbeing Report](#) are strongly encouraged. Collaborative approaches will receive priority consideration. This year the Somerville Health Foundation plans to distribute 2 - 3 awards and will accept requests between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The number and amount of grant awarded will be based on the proposals and available funds at time of distribution.

Deadline for proposals: August 18th, 2025 at 11:59PM (EST)

Request for Proposals (RFP) Guidelines available at:
[2025/2026 Somerville Health Foundation Application](#)

For more information or to discuss potential proposals, contact:
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