

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **John M. Scott Health Care Trust commits over \$1.2 million to advance community's health improvement plan, improve health equity**

The Bloomington City Council, Trustee to the John M. Scott Health Care Trust, approved the first round of grant funding to McLean County organizations at the City Council meeting on Monday, October 28, 2019. The Council's action commits a total of \$1,238,000 to 21 organizations through fiscal year 2022, which includes distributions of \$449,550 in FY20, \$563,450 in FY21, and \$225,000 in FY22. Grant commitments were approved for three grant Categories: Category I "General Operating" grants, Category II "Community Health Priority Grants," and Category III "Emergent Need" Grants.

During the application window, which was open during the month of August, 2019, 33 applications were submitted by 25 McLean County organizations. Each application was scored by at least three volunteer reviewers, which included 14 community experts in addition to Commissioners. The Grant Committee reviewed the scores and recommendations of the volunteer grant reviewers in a series of meetings and then made final recommendations to the full Commission on September 25, at which time the Commission unanimously approved the recommendations of the Grant Committee, advancing them to the Trustee for final approval on 10/28/19.

**Category I General Operating Grants** were designed to help sustain the general operations of major nonprofit health care services agencies, while incentivizing the integration of different types of health care services. Two major local providers will receive Category 1 General Operating grants. The McLean County Center for Human Services will receive \$100,000 per year for three years to help support the integration of behavioral and primary health care services, and when necessary, supported housing. Community Health Care Clinic will receive \$125,000 per year for three years to support the integration of primary health care and oral health care services.

**Category II Community Health Priority Grants** were designed to provide flexible funding while targeting needs identified in the McLean County Community Health Needs Assessment (e.g., social determinants of health, specific/chronic health conditions, groups of people that experience poor health outcomes, high-need neighborhoods, and/or demographic disparities), and advance progress for specific goals and objectives related to the McLean County Community Health Improvement Plan. Collaboration among multiple agencies was encouraged but not required. The total amounts committed to agencies as stated below will be distributed in two installments, with 35% of the total being distributed in FY20 and the balance in FY21. Fourteen local nonprofit agencies will receive the following Category II "Block Grants" in FY20-21:

- **Center for Youth and Family Solutions:** \$58,000 for child, adolescent, & family behavioral health services, including telepsychiatry and sliding fee counseling
- **Children's Home and Aid:** \$50,000 for home & community based services outside in rural areas, including perinatal, maternal, and child services
- **Faith in Action:** \$30,000 to support senior well-being, including social connection & transportation
- **Heartland Head Start:** \$50,000 to support early childhood well-being, including services for the whole-child and family that support physical, mental and oral health and school readiness, and partnerships with other providers and local universities
- **INtegrity Counseling:** \$21,000 to expand access to general mental health services, especially in high-need zip codes

- **Marcfirst:** \$35,000 to support early childhood well-being, including services that support healthy child development and partnerships with school districts
- **Mid Central Community Action:** \$20,000 for housing interventions that support health, including radon, mold, and lead paint mitigation, weatherization, and partnerships with local hospitals
- **Normal First United Methodist Church:** \$20,000 for capital equipment and operations for School Street Food Pantry, plus related efforts to improve food security among all local college students
- **Project Oz:** \$50,000 to support adolescent well-being including housing and crisis stabilization
- **Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center:** \$34,000 to support senior well-being and allow people to age in place, including social connection, food stability (i.e., Peace Meals), and partnerships with other senior-focused organizations
- **The Baby Fold:** \$50,000 for home & community based services in high-need urban zip codes, including intensive family support, community schools, and perinatal services
- **West Bloomington Revitalization Project:** \$50,000 for programs in west Bloomington that support healthy eating and active living, shrink the surrounding USDA food desert, and improve the built environment to promote exercise
- **Youthbuild McLean County:** \$30,000 to support adolescent well-being through mental health wrap-around services, including on-site care
- **YWCA McLean County:** \$35,000 to support early childhood well-being in east Bloomington through social-emotional learning curriculum and training, and the promotion of healthy eating through the preparation of healthy foods, cooking classes, and related personnel on-site

**Category III Emergent Need Grants** are designed to provide resources for needs that may emerge in between Category I and II funding cycles, or reimbursement for specific health related units of service that may lack other funding sources. Unlike Categories I and II, Category III funds cannot be used to cover general operating or overhead expenses, and will have simplified reporting requirements compared to Categories I and II. The following entities will receive funding in FY20; the Commission will make recommendations about FY21 and FY22 Category III spending at a later date.

- \$5,000 each to the City of Bloomington Township and Normal Township
- \$15,000 to McLean County Health Department
- \$10,000 to Promise Councils of McLean County.

When no other payor exists, Category III funds may be used to cover units of service for persons under 185% FPL such as the following: mental health “urgent care” after trauma or disaster; car repairs and Taxi/Uber/Lyft/Bus fares while car is being repaired - when repairs are required in order to attend work or go to medical appointments; cost prohibitive health care co-pays; utilities, when facing shut off, when needed for health reasons (e.g., refrigerating insulin); eyeglasses and medical supplies; oral health care for persons ineligible to receive services at CHCC; medical/physical/dental/eye exams required for school registration. The Commission will work with Category III funding recipients to finalize the list of items eligible for reimbursement and design a meaningful and efficient reporting system.

Agencies named above will receive their FY20 Category I, II, or III allocations before 12/31/19, and the active grant period begins 1/1/20. FY21 allocations will be distributed after FY21 begins on 5/1/20, pending City Council budget approval and the availability of funds.

Susan Grant, MSN, RN, Vice-Chair of the Commission, says: “The first grants awarded under the new John M. Scott Health Care Trust Grant Program announced today comprise a portfolio based upon years of careful planning and an enormous amount of stakeholder input. Many people worked hard for a long time to get to this point, and we couldn’t be more grateful to the volunteer grant reviewers, City staff, guardian ad litem, local health assessment and planning teams, and many others, that supported this process.”

Deb Halperin, Secretary of the Commission, says: “This is an enormous opportunity for many grant recipients after some very difficult years for our nonprofit community. We understand that flexible funding for general operations, overhead, and capital expenses is very rare, and the whole Commission is thrilled that the Trust is able to help support those needs.”

Brandi Sweeney, Treasurer of the Commission, says: “We understand that some applicants are disappointed by these announcements, and we urge them to re-apply when we issue another RFP in the future. We expect our budget to increase in the next fiscal year, so there will be more opportunity.”

Holly Ambuehl, MSW, Chair of the Commission, says: “When we support the well-being of everyone in McLean County, we all benefit. If we lack physical and mental health, we cannot not reach our full potential. In contrast, when our bodies and minds are healthy, we can contribute to our workplaces and community in many ways.

“I am confident that the grant portfolio we announced today will make McLean County healthier and more equitable over time, because it is carefully balanced to address each of McLean County’s top three community health priorities, to cover services across the lifespan, to and bring resources to often disinvested neighborhoods.”

---

## MORE INFORMATION

**Judge John M. Scott, Health Care Trust, and Commission:** Information about Judge John m. Scott and his wife Ann Perry is available at <https://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/john-m-scott>. Information about the John M. Scott Health Care Commission, including history, by-laws, members, minutes, and other information is available at <https://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/john-m-scott-health-commission>.

**2019 Call for Proposals and Grant Review Process:** On August 1, the John M. Scott Health Commission issued a Request for Proposals (RFP). Applicants were required to show a connection to the McLean County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Social Determinants of Health. The 2019 RFP Background document is available at <https://www.cityblm.org/home/showdocument?id=22367> and grant application materials are available at <https://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/john-m-scott-grants-program>.

## Related Resources

- World Health Organization report on Social Determinants of Health : See [http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/).
- Community Health Needs Assessments, Community Health Improvement Plans, and related Progress Reports are available at these links.
  - Advocate Bromenn Medical Center: <https://www.advocatehealth.com/hospital-chna-reports-implementation-plans-progress-reports/bromenn-chna-report-2016>
  - Chestnut Health Systems: <https://www.chestnutfamilyhealth.org/about-us/data-reports/>
  - McLean County Health Department: <https://health.mcleancountyil.gov/112/Community-Health-Needs-Assessment-Health>
  - OSF St. Joseph Medical Center: <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/about/community-health/>
- Other Resources and Suggested Reading: <https://www.cityblm.org/home/showdocument?id=22361>

---

## Contact

Jennifer Toney, Staff Administrator [jms@cityblm.org](mailto:jms@cityblm.org)