

## **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.

### **June 30 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:**

- Stand-alone legislation in the General Assembly this year, SB 172/HB 463, has now become law. The legislation establishes “Health Equity Resources Communities” (HERC) and MCHRC staff continues preparations to implement the provisions of the bill and the Relief Act. In process activities include: 1) working with MDH, the Governor's Office and the 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. The Governor’s Office, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House have made appointments to the HERC Advisory Committee and the MCHRC is planning a first meeting of the HERC Advisory Committee in early August. We are planning to discuss the Pathways RFP for the \$13M at this meeting.