Asian American Center of Excellence (AACE) Micro-Grants Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who are Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders?
   a. [Asian Americans](#) and [Pacific Islanders](#) are individuals who belong to the following groups:

1) Afghani
2) Asian Indian
3) Bangladeshi
4) Bhutanese
5) Burmese
6) Cambodian
7) Chamorro
8) Chinese
9) Fijian
10) Filipino
11) Hmong
12) Indonesian
13) Japanese
14) Korean
15) Laotian
16) Malaysian
17) Marshallese
18) Melanesian
19) Micronesian
20) Mongolian
21) Native Hawaiian
22) Nepalese
23) Okinawan
24) Pakistani
25) Polynesian
26) Samoan
27) Sri Lankan
28) Taiwanese
29) Thai
30) Tongan
31) Vietnamese

2. What is the definition of capacity building?
   a. According to the [World Health Organization](#), capacity building means to "improve health through the advancement of knowledge and skills among frontline practitioners; the expansion of support and infrastructure for health promotion in organizations; and, the development of cohesiveness and partnerships for health in communities."

3. What does "health and wellness programs and social support services" mean?
   a. This means that your organization is providing services or programs related to health, wellness, or social support. Examples of health programs are chronic disease management, primary care services, or mental health screenings. Examples of wellness programs are cooking classes, health education and outreach programs, or senior wellness programs. Examples of social support services are food pantries, case management, and job readiness programs.

4. What does "Advancement of knowledge and skills among staff, volunteers, or other practitioners" mean?
   a. This means that people in your organization learned a new skill or gained knowledge as a result of the grant.

5. What does "Expansion of support and infrastructure for health and wellness programs and/or social support services" mean?
    a. This means that your organization was able to provide a new service or improve an existing service related to health, wellness, and social support as a result of the grant.

6. What does "Improvements in information flow or organizational infrastructure" mean?
    a. This means that your organization was able to make internal improvements that will allow it to operate more efficiently and/or with better direction and vision.

7. Can I apply for this funding if my organization also serves Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from other counties or states? Can I apply for this funding if my organization also serves other races? Can I apply for this funding if my organization is headquartered in another jurisdiction?
    a. Yes, you can still apply as long as your organization has been serving Asian Americans in Montgomery County since July 1, 2021.

8. Under "Funding Categories," what does "Operating costs for direct services to clients" mean?
    a. Operating costs are day-to-day expenses like rent, utilities, printing, postage, etc. Direct services refer to the services an organization provides directly to their target population. The AACE micro-grants will not fund operating costs for direct services to clients.

9. What are the reporting requirements?
    a. An end-of-year final report is due on July 10, 2023, which is after the end of the grant period (see report template). In addition to the report, close-out interviews will be conducted.

10. Are the grants for the activities and services performed in the past or for the future or for both?
    a. The grants are for activities and services performed during the grant period of March 6, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

11. Is it possible to be outside of these categories?
    a. No, all requests must fall within one or all of the listed funding categories.

12. Can an application be submitted with activities in multiple categories you listed?
    a. Yes, your organization can apply for funding in one, two, or all of the categories.

13. Is there a match requirement for the budget?
    a. No

14. Can I request funding to cover part of an expense that costs more than $5,000?
    a. Yes, but the funding must cover at least 50% of the total cost.

15. Will the award be awarded to one organization or multiple?
    a. Multiple

16. Can an organization submit more than one proposal?
    a. An applicant must only submit one proposal. A proposal can contain funding requests for multiple categories.

17. I am applying for funding for multiple categories. Can I upload multiple estimates, quotes, or other proof of pricing?
    a. No, please combine all estimates, quotes, and proof of pricing into one document.

18. How many awards are available?
    a. There is not a limit on awards, but there is a cap on award amounts - $5,000 per funding category. The maximum an organization can receive is $15,000, assuming they get the full reward in all 3 categories.

19. How do I know which year's budget to upload?
    a. For organizations that follow the calendar year, please upload your 2022 budget. For organizations that follow a fiscal year, please upload your FY2023 budget.

20. We are a faith-based organization that doesn't have to file taxes, should we still submit a budget?
    a. Yes. Tax-exemption is not related to submitting an organizational budget for a grant.

21. My organization is waiting for our Good Standing Certificate, it may not be delivered before the application deadline. What should we do?
    a. If the certificate is taking time, please ensure that your organization is in good standing by using the following link: https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch. If the organization is in good standing, we can accept the actual certificate at a later time.

22. If I created an account to apply for the Healthy Communities Fund in the past, do I have to create a new account to apply for this grant?
    a. No, you can log into your existing account and should be able to access the application for this grant opportunity once it goes live on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.