

**HCHN investments & Highly Impacted Communities**  
**Governance Council Update**  
**7/20/20**

**Background**

HCHN included a new Highly Impacted Communities (HIC) strategy to its procurement process (RFP), planned for Spring 2020, for the next 3-year federal grant period covering 2021-2023. HIC designated \$150,000 per year to fund one new organization to provide medical care, behavioral health care, or enabling (supportive) services for individuals living homeless. Eligible organizations are those that:

- Explicitly serves the two communities most disproportionately impacted by homelessness – Black/African Americans and Native American/Alaska Native
- Are POC led, i.e.
  - o A majority (50% +) of POC in leadership, board, staff and individuals served
  - o An expressed and demonstrated commitment to racial equity and communities of color as reflected in its mission & program strategy

HCHN planned to offer technical assistance to smaller organizations during the RFP application process and to the agency selected for the HIC strategy for the first year of the award. In addition, HCHN conducted outreach to POC led agencies and hosted multiple HIC-focused Bidder's Conferences after the RFP was released to answer questions and discuss administrative and reporting requirements.

Due to COVID, HCHN's HRSA grant period was extended by 1 year, putting off the 3-year grant application previously due in August 2020. The broad HCHN RFP planned for spring 2020 was put off in order to align with the grant submission, now expected to be August 2021.

**Next steps**

Despite the large RFP being put off by a year, HCHN is interested in moving forward with the HIC strategy in a smaller RFP process this fall. The original \$150K designated for HIC can still be put out for bid for work to be contracted in 2021, due to current programmatic savings to our federal funding.

Technical assistance will once again be made available in the application process and in the first year of working with HCHN. HCHN's intention in awarding these funds for 2021 is to continue at least the same level of funding through the next HRSA project period (likely 3 additional years).