

# ENOUGH Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

**Updated 8/20/24**

*Note: Clarifications in this document do not supersede the requirements in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). **New questions are highlighted.***

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# ENOUGH Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### 1. *What is the ENOUGH Initiative?*

Signed into law by Governor Wes Moore on May 9, 2024, the **Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments and Households (ENOUGH) Act** offers a first-of-its-kind, state-led response to the profound challenge of childhood poverty. Building on the landmark [Blueprint for Maryland's Future](#) focused on public education, the ENOUGH Initiative extends state investments into the communities where children grow, live, and play. The **ENOUGH Initiative** includes the **ENOUGH Grant Program**, as well as Local Management Board (LMB) Capacity Building Grants (separate Notice of Funding of Availability) and robust, tailored technical assistance support.

On July 1, 2024, the Governor's Office for Children released the FY 2025 ENOUGH Grant Program [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).

The ENOUGH Grant Program provides targeted resources and technical assistance to help address the root causes of poverty at the community level by strengthening the capacity for collaborative action across sectors, including education, health, workforce, housing, and community safety.

Communities will have the opportunity to build partnerships and develop and/or implement a Neighborhood Action Plan aligned with four (4) ENOUGH Result Areas:

- **Cradle to Career Education** - Unlocking children's potential through early care and education from birth until working in a career, including ensuring smooth transitions to and through kindergarten, middle school, and high school graduation with a pathway to college and/or career.
- **Healthy Families** - Ensuring community member and family access to high-quality, comprehensive healthcare with goals of decreasing infant mortality, increasing life expectancy, and improving behavioral health, which includes mental health.
- **Economically Secure Families** - Ensuring higher employment and entrepreneurship resulting in livable and family-sustaining wages, and stable, thriving households where families can provide for necessities, weather hard times, and build wealth.
- **Safe and Thriving Communities** - Creating communities where residents feel safe and where the built environment supports their ability to thrive, including high-quality, affordable housing; a thriving commercial core; and access to recreational spaces, nutritious food, and transportation.

### 2. *How much funding is available for the ENOUGH Initiative?*

In FY25, \$15 million will be budgeted to cover the costs associated with the first year of the ENOUGH Grant Program and \$5 million has been allocated to Local Management Boards to support community-based organizations within each jurisdiction to build the capacity to engage in community revitalization initiatives.

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### 3. *How many grants will be made in each category and how much funding will be provided for each?*

ENOUGH grants will be issued in three (3) competitive tracks, and community capacity-building grants will be awarded to Local Management Boards (LMBs). Year 1 funding in State Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) will support the budget period of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.

#### **Track 1: Partnership Development Grants**

Maximum Award:	Approximately \$65,000
Estimated/Expected Number of FY25 Awards:	Up to 10*
Project Period:	12 Months**

*\*Actual number of awards will be based on a number of factors, including formula-driven budgets, quality of applications, and funds available.*

*\*\*FY25 ends 6/30/25, but no cost extensions may be granted to allow up to 12 months of capacity building and planning activities for Track 1: Partnership Development grantees.*

#### **Track 2: Plan Development Grants**

Maximum Award:	Approximately \$300,000
Estimated/Expected Number of FY25 Awards:	Up to 7*
Project Period:	12-24 Months

*\*Actual number of awards will be based on a number of factors, including formula-driven budgets, quality of applications, and funds available.*

#### **Track 3: Implementation Grants**

Maximum Award:	Up to \$5,000,000* in Year 1
Estimated/Expected Number of FY25 Awards:	Up to 3**
Project Period:	4 Years

*\*Award is based on the number of children living in poverty in the community. Grant recipients will be eligible for four (4) cycles of funding, awarded annually, pending funding availability. The first cycle of funding is prorated at 50% of the annual award due to a shorter cycle. In subsequent years, Implementation grantees will receive up to \$10,000,000 based on community size.*

*\*\*Actual number of awards will be based on a number of factors, including formula-driven budgets, quality of applications, and funds available.*

### 4. *What types of activities can the ENOUGH Grant Program funds be used for?*

The ENOUGH Grant Program provides direct funding to community-based, cross-sector partnerships through three (3) competitive grant tracks. Activities will vary based on which track the grantee is in:

- Track 1: Partnership Development

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- Identify Community Quarterback and build capacity
- Convene partners
- Engage Community
- Analyze existing local data
- **Track 2: Plan Development**
  - Solidify partnerships
  - Conduct community asset mapping and needs assessment
  - Engage in planning and prioritization processes alongside community
  - Develop Neighborhood Action Plan\*
- **Track 3: Implementation**
  - Launch Neighborhood Action Plan
  - Leverage additional funding streams
  - Conduct progress monitoring and continuous improvement
  - Engage community on an ongoing basis

\*A Neighborhood Action Plan is a community-driven, place-based plan of action that was developed based on a comprehensive asset mapping and needs analysis, including an assessment of physical, behavioral, mental health, education, housing, economic, and safety needs of the community. See [NOFO](#) Appendix A for more.

## TIMELINE

### 5. *Is a Notice of Intent to Apply required?*

It is strongly advised that communities submit a [Notice of Intent to Apply](#). Applicants submitting the Notice of Intent by **July 19, 2024** will receive a community-specific data dashboard in early August 2024 and will be notified of technical assistance and training opportunities in the pre-award period.

### 6. *When are applications due?*

**07/01/2024** | *Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#)) Published for All Tracks*

**07/05/2024** | *Training and Technical Assistance Resource Hub Live*

**07/19/2024** | *Deadline for **Notice Intent to Apply for All Tracks** - Submit via Online Form\**

**Track 1 Applications Due: November 1, 2024**

**Track 2 Applications Due: September 20, 2024**

**Track 3 Applications Due: September 20, 2024**

**Grant Award Notifications: Winter 2024 (All Tracks)**

### 7. *When will the second round of funding take place?*

The second round of funding (Year 2) is anticipated to begin in early Fall 2025. The ENOUGH Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Year 2 will be released Spring 2025.

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### ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIRED PARTNERSHIPS

#### 8. *What entities are eligible to apply?*

Eligible lead applicant organizations, called the Community Quarterback, may be any of the following:

- community-based organization,
- non-profit organization,
- local government entity,
- Local Management Board (LMB), or
- Community Action Agency (CAA)

The Community Quarterback organization should have deep relationships in the focus community and the capacity to drive implementation across multiple partners. The Community Quarterback organization is presumed to be responsible for compliance, reporting, and financial stewardship of the grant award, but a separate Fiscal Sponsor organization is permitted.

#### 9. *What is a community-based organization?*

As defined in the ENOUGH Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#)), a **Community-Based Organization** is an organization that is responsive to, and governed by, community residents. By that we mean:

- It is preferred that the governing body and/or staff leadership include community members and individuals with lived experience;
- The organization has a strong, established presence in the prioritized community;
- Priority issue areas are identified and defined by residents;
- Solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents; and
- Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions with authority to make critical decisions.

#### 10. *What communities are eligible to be served by this grant program?*

An eligible community must meet both of the following eligibility criteria:

- Include at least one U.S. Census tract where more than 30% of children are living in poverty and
- Be served by a Maryland community school with a concentration of poverty level of at least 80%.

See the Maryland Department of Planning [ENOUGH Initiative: Community Eligibility Map](#) to view eligible geographies. If you are not sure if your community is eligible, reach out to [ENOUGH@maryland.gov](mailto:ENOUGH@maryland.gov)

#### 11. *What is the definition of a community for the purposes of this grant? Can I apply to serve a whole city or region?*

Recognizing that communities (including neighborhoods) are resident-identified social constructs with variable and dynamic geographic markers and characteristics, the ENOUGH Grant Program requires that applicants identify the community(ies) of focus using verifiable

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geographic boundaries such as Census tracts, city blocks, street boundaries, government-endorsed “zones,” or planning districts.

The applicant’s identified “community” may include geographic boundaries that reach beyond the eligible Census tract(s) and multiple communities may apply together. **However, applicants should consider organizational capacity and logistical feasibility of implementing a focused, place-based initiative when identifying the geographic scope and scale of proposed activities.** The focus geography should be an appropriate size that allows for effective implementation of selected strategies and aligns with the community’s impact goals.

The Governor’s Office for Children is committed to funding a representative portfolio of ENOUGH Grant Program grantees in FY 2025, including defined geographies located in rural jurisdictions.

### **12. Can I include Census tracts with less than 30% child poverty in my community’s geographic boundaries?**

Yes. An eligible community (or otherwise defined geography) must meet **both** of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Include at least one U.S. Census tract where **more than 30% of children are living in poverty and**
2. Be served by a Maryland [community school](#) with a concentration of poverty level of **at least 80%**.

See the Maryland Department of Planning [ENOUGH Initiative: Community Eligibility Map](#) to view eligible geographies.

Applicants are encouraged to be mindful of organizational capacity and logistical feasibility of implementing a focused, place-based initiative when identifying the geographic scope and scale of proposed activities. A “community” geographic boundary can reach beyond the eligible census tract(s), and multiple communities may apply collaboratively. However, the focus geography should be an appropriate size that allows for effective implementation of selected strategies and aligns with the community’s impact goals.

### **13. Do our geographic boundaries need to be contiguous?**

In most cases, the community identified in a single application will include a contiguous geographic area. Applicants must meet the definition of “community” per the [NOFO](#) Appendix A: “Recognizing that communities (including neighborhoods) are resident-identified social constructs with variable and dynamic geographic markers and characteristics, the ENOUGH Grant Program requires that applicants identify the community(ies) of focus using verifiable geographic boundaries such as Census tracts, city blocks, street boundaries, government-endorsed “zones,” or planning districts.”

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### **14. How is poverty defined?**

The ENOUGH Act uses two measures of poverty to determine eligibility:

- Poverty as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau defines childhood poverty as children under 18 living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.
- Poverty as measured by the concentration of poverty level of the community school(s) serving that community, as defined in § 5–223 of the Education Article. You can view the methodology used to determine the school-based poverty rate [here](#).

School-based poverty measures are based on eligibility for free or reduced price meal under USDA's National School Lunch Program or based on the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which uses data from means tested programs to determine poverty rates, including: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Foster care; Head Start; Even Start; Migrant students; Homeless students; and Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program, up to 189% of the federal poverty level.

### **15. Why doesn't my county have any ENOUGH eligible Census tracts, given my community has high levels of poverty and distress?**

According to the ENOUGH Act statute, an eligible community must meet both of the following eligibility criteria:

- Include at least one U.S. Census tract where more than 30% of children are living in poverty and
- Be served by a Maryland community school with a concentration of poverty level of at least 80%.

Some counties do not have any Census Tracts that meet this criteria at this time. Please note that through the ENOUGH Initiative, counties will receive an ENOUGH LMB Capacity Building Grant. This grant is intended to leverage the regional infrastructure LMBs provide to support neighborhoods and local communities. While the ENOUGH Grant Program is limited to eligible communities, all counties in Maryland will receive additional resources through the LMB Capacity Building Grant. You can find contact information for your LMB here:

<https://goc.maryland.gov/Pages/LMB-directory.aspx>

### **16. I am a community-based organization. Can I apply on my own, or am I required to come in with partners? What partnerships are required to apply for ENOUGH?**

In all tracks, ENOUGH Partnerships must include the following minimum core partners:

- **one** community-based non-profit organization, **one** local government entity, and **one** public school<sup>1</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> The public school partner may be the community school serving the focus geography, but it may also be a different public school serving the same neighborhood.

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- an organization identified as a “Community Quarterback” to serve as the Lead Applicant, which can be the community-based non-profit, the local government entity, another non-profit organization, local management board, or community action agency.

In addition, in Tracks 2: Partnership Development and Track 3: Implementation, ENOUGH applicants must demonstrate that their Partnership Collaborative (as defined in the [NOFO Appendix A](#)) includes organizations with expertise in each of the ENOUGH Results Areas.

ENOUGH Partnership Collaboratives may include local community leaders and residents, faith-based organizations, businesses and employers, unions or worker organizations, local government, tribal entities, institutions of higher education, health care and care management organizations, community development organizations (like Community Development Enterprises or Community Development Financial Institutions), philanthropy and donor collaboratives, civic groups, entrepreneur support organizations, workforce investment boards, chamber organizations, local law enforcement and justice system offices, schools and school districts, community-based organizations, community-based non-profit organizations and other non-profit partners.

The term “local” for partnership members means residing in the defined eligible area or serving members of the defined community. The community school serving the geography should be a member of the partnership, but another local public school may serve as the required local public school.

### **17. The Partnership Collaborative has three required partners: a public school, a local government entity, and a community-based non-profit. What are the definitions of these partners?**

The term “local” for partnership members means residing in the defined eligible area or serving members of the defined community. The community school(s) with greater than 80% concentrated poverty level serving the geography should be a member of the partnership, but another local public school may serve as the required local public school and/or as a member of the partnership collaborative. Please see the below definitions of required partners (also in Appendix A of the [NOFO](#)).

**Local Government Entity:** This may include: (A) a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, regional government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; (B) a state-recognized Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization; or (C) a rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity, for which an application for assistance is made by a political subdivision of the State.

**Community-Based Organization:** A community-based organization is an organization that is responsive to, and governed by, community residents. By that we mean:

- It is preferred that the governing body and/or staff leadership include community members and individuals with lived experience;
- The organization has a strong, established presence in the prioritized community;



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- Priority issue areas are identified and defined by residents;
- Solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents; and
- Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions with authority to make critical decisions.

**Public School:** schools in the public elementary and secondary education system (i.e., K-12 system) of Maryland. Please note, your public school may be a community school serving the focus geography, but it may also be a different public school serving the same community.

### **18. Can you provide more guidance on what is required for the Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement (MOU/A) Signed by Partners?**

See [NOFO](#) Appendix A: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): Applicants to Track 2: Plan Development and Track 3: Implementation must submit a formal partnering agreement (MOU/MOA) signed by all organizational partners that: (1) defines the purpose or vision of the cross-sector partnership as it relates to place-based work conducted in the focus community; (2) details the roles, responsibilities, and commitments of partnering organizations; and (3) describes any agreed upon norms or protocols related to collaborative decision-making, establishing and refining partnership priorities, community engagement, data sharing, equitable practices, or other mutual understandings or agreements. The MOU/MOA does not have to be developed specifically for the ENOUGH Grant Program application, but it should be broad enough to cover proposed grant-funded activities. Additionally, the Governor’s Office for Children recently held a webinar with StriveTogether on “Partnership Norms and Agreements for Successful Cross-Sector Collaboration.” You can find the recording [here](#) and slides [here](#). StriveTogether offered sample partnership agreements and MOUs which you can find at the links below:

- [Partnership agreement Example 1](#)
- [Partnership agreement Example 2 Leadership Council](#)
- [Partnership Agreement Template](#)
- [Partnership MOU Example 1](#)

If an applicant cannot execute a partnering agreement by the application deadline, we recommend including letters of commitment from key partners and submitting a draft/unsigned partnering agreement with a note that the agreement is pending or otherwise explaining why the partnering agreement could not be obtained. Failing to submit a signed partnering agreement for Track 2 and Track 3 may impact review scores, but it will meet technical compliance if the applicant submits letters of commitment and assurance of a pending agreement.

### **19. What is a fiscal sponsor? Why do I need one of those? Can I be the fiscal sponsor if I am also the lead applicant/community quarterback?**

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A Fiscal Sponsor (see [NOFO](#) Appendix A) is an entity with capacity to manage the financial stewardship, reporting, and compliance aspects of an awarded grant. This can be the Community Quarterback, a non-profit or county/municipal government or quasi-government actor, including a Local Management Board or Community Action Agency. The fiscal sponsor for the grant must have the capacity to:

- Implement controls to ensure that grant funds are expended in ways consistent with legislative requirements and the commitments made in the application or otherwise negotiated upon award.
- Track and report data across outcome indicators and progress measures.
- Support community groups in building capacity to participate in the ENOUGH activities – including their “back office” capacity to administer grant funds and generate reporting data.
- Identify and braid in other funding sources in alignment with the ENOUGH award.

### **20. Can you provide more detail on how a Community Quarterback will collaborate with a separate Fiscal Sponsor if they choose to utilize one? Will funds go to the Fiscal Sponsor or the Community Quarterback?**

As stated in the [NOFO](#), Appendix A, a Fiscal Sponsor is: An entity with capacity to manage the financial stewardship, reporting, and compliance aspects of an awarded grant. This can be the Community Quarterback, a non-profit or county/municipal government or quasi-government actor, including a Local Management Board or Community Action Agency.

The fiscal sponsor for the grant must have the capacity to:

- Implement controls to ensure that grant funds are expended in ways consistent with legislative requirements and the commitments made in the application or otherwise negotiated upon award.
- Track and report data across outcome indicators and progress measures.
- Support community groups in building capacity to participate in the ENOUGH activities – including their “back office” capacity to administer grant funds and generate reporting data.
- Identify and braid in other funding sources in alignment with the ENOUGH award.

It is expected that the Community Quarterback will work closely with the Fiscal Sponsor on all aspects of the above. The mechanism by which awarded funds will be disbursed will be determined by the Governor’s Office for Children, the Community Quarterback, and the Fiscal Sponsor.

### **21. Can my organization apply if we want to support place-based work in our community but we don’t want to be the Community Quarterback?**

If you would like to be a part of the ENOUGH Initiative but do not want to be the Community Quarterback, seek out additional partners in your community who are interested in serving in this capacity. Your organization can serve as an ENOUGH Partner and can support the Community Quarterback as they apply for the ENOUGH Grant.

### **22. What if I have some of the required or recommended partners but not all? Can I make a commitment to identify or develop additional partners during the grant period instead?**

In all tracks, ENOUGH Partnerships must include the following minimum core partners:

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- **one** community-based non-profit organization, **one** local government entity, and **one** public school<sup>2</sup>; and
- an organization identified as a “Community Quarterback” to serve as the Lead Applicant, which can be the community-based non-profit, the local government entity, another non-profit organization, local management board, or community action agency.

Track 1: Partnership Development applicants are not required to have an established Partnership Collaborative beyond the core partners described above. During their grant period, **Track 1: Partnership Development** grantees will build the capacity of the community quarterback organization, convene partners, activate and engage community leaders, and develop a formal partnership network or consortium structure to conduct a place-based initiative around a shared vision for their community’s success.

In Track 2: Plan Development and Track 3: Implementation, applicants must demonstrate that their Partnership Collaborative (as defined in the [NOFO](#)) includes organizations with expertise in each of the ENOUGH Results Areas.

### ***23. My community does not qualify based on census tract, can we still partner with organizations in an eligible tract?***

Yes. Community Quarterbacks can bring in a broad spectrum of partners who are willing and able to support Neighborhood Implementation Plans.

### ***24. Can a public school serve as the Community Quarterback?***

Typically a public school will serve as a core partner (see [NOFO](#)), working closely with the Community Quarterback to shape and implement the ENOUGH Theory of Action. There may be rare circumstances in which a public school could serve as the Community Quarterback if it can meet all requirements of the role. The Community Quarterback may be any of the following: community-based organization, non-profit organization, local government organization, Local Management Board, or Community Action Agency. Please see [NOFO](#) Section 3.2 “Eligible Applicants and Partnership Requirements” and the definition of Community Quarterback in [NOFO](#) Appendix A. For example, the Community Quarterback organization should have deep relationships in the focus community and the capacity to drive implementation across multiple partners.

### ***25. Can an institution of higher education apply as the Community Quarterback?***

There may be circumstances in which an institution of higher education could serve as the Community Quarterback if it can meet all requirements of the role. Please see [NOFO](#) Section 3.2 “Eligible Applicants and Partnership Requirements” and the definition of Community Quarterback in [NOFO](#) Appendix A.

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<sup>2</sup> The public school partner may be the community school serving the focus geography, but it may also be a different public school serving the same neighborhood.

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For example, the Community Quarterback organization should have deep relationships in the focus community and the capacity to drive implementation across multiple partners. The Community Quarterback organization is presumed to be responsible for compliance, reporting, and financial stewardship of the grant award, but a separate Fiscal Sponsor organization is permitted. An institution of higher education may also be a great candidate to serve as a member of the Partnership Collaborative or the Fiscal Sponsor for another organization that will serve as the Community Quarterback.

***26. There is a school in my community that does not have a level of concentrated poverty above 80%. Can we still include this school in our community's geographic boundaries and/or in our Partnership Collaborative?***

Yes. Applicants must have geographic boundaries that are served by at least one Maryland community school with a concentration of poverty level of at least 80%. However, applicants are free to include additional schools with concentration of poverty levels below 80% in their self-defined geographic boundaries. Additionally, applicants are free to include any public schools from their communities in their ENOUGH Partnership Collaboratives.

***27. Can an organization headquartered outside of Maryland serve as the Community Quarterback if they meet eligibility criteria and deliver services in the focus community?***

While this is allowed, the Community Quarterback organization should have deep relationships in the focus community. Generally, this means the organization is headquartered in Maryland and/or in the focus community.

***28. Do Local Education Agencies satisfy the governmental agency qualification?***

Yes.

## TRACK SELECTION AND MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

***29. I don't know which track I am best suited for – how can I figure that out?***

Each track of the ENOUGH Grant Program has minimum qualifying criteria to apply, progressing from Track 1: Partnership Development to Track 2: Plan Development, and, finally, Track 3: Implementation. Use the [ENOUGH Track Selector](#) to evaluate the best track for your initial application.

***30. I am interested in Track 1. What are some of the types of activities that I could use these funds for? What activities should I prioritize if I want to make myself eligible for Track 2 down the road?***

Track 1: Partnership Development grantees will receive a grant and technical assistance from Local Management Boards to build their capacity to address the root causes of poverty at the

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community level. Funded activities may include strengthening community engagement and creating cross-sector partnerships – across education, health, workforce, housing, public safety and community development issue areas – united in the common goal of ending childhood poverty.

To qualify for Track 2: Plan Development, by the end of the funding cycle grantees must have a robust Partnership Collaborative (see [NOFO](#)) established. Therefore, Track 1: Partnership Development grantees should prioritize solidifying their partnerships and partnership governance structure as they prepare to apply to Track 2: Plan Development.

### ***31. Can an organization apply to multiple tracks?***

No. Organizations can only apply to one track per cycle (fiscal year). The Governor's Office for Children (GOC) stands ready to engage with prospective applicants to help determine which application aligns with the partnership's state of readiness.

Should communities be a better fit for a different track than initially applied for, the GOC will consider the applicant for other tracks, as relevant.

It is expected that most communities will start with Track 1: Partnership Development to establish a formal partnership governance structure, then engage in collaborative activities to pursue Track 2: Plan Development and Track 3: Implementation.

Successful FY 2025 grantees in Track 1: Partnership Development and Track 2: Plan Development could progress to a subsequent track (from Track 1: Partnership Development to Track 2: Plan Development, or from Track 2: Plan Development to Track 3: Implementation) in future grant cycles. All grantees are required to reapply as they move from track to track to demonstrate their eligibility, capacity, and readiness for the next phase of work.

### ***32. Could an organization apply as the Community Quarterback in one track, but also be one of the listed partners in another organization's application?***

Ideally organizations serving the same geography will submit a single, collaborative proposal that reflects community-identified priorities. Applicants proposing to serve the same geography with separate applications may be encouraged to coordinate their efforts or otherwise consolidate activities as a condition of award.

An organization may serve as a collaborating partner or member of the leadership team for multiple applications if the organization's proposed activities and budget line items are distinct and not duplicative or overlapping.

### ***33. Can we submit multiple applications to serve different neighborhoods?***

An organization may serve as the Community Quarterback (lead applicant) for only one community or neighborhood and may submit only one application for this year's competition.

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Per the [NOFO](#): "Applicants are encouraged to be mindful of organizational capacity and logistical feasibility of implementing a focused, place-based initiative when identifying the geographic scope and scale of proposed activities." However, if an organization has a presence in multiple neighborhoods applying for ENOUGH grants, that organization can be a member of the Partnership Collaborative for multiple applications.

### **34. For Track 3, is the Logic Model attachment supposed to align with the activities of the Community Quarterback, the ENOUGH Partnership broadly, or the Neighborhood Action Plan?**

The Logic Model attachment for Track 3 applicants should be aligned with the Neighborhood Action Plan. The Application Checklist (see [NOFO](#)) identifies "Logic Model for Neighborhood Action Plan." The Logic Model is evaluated under review criterion 3-A.

### **35. Does the 25-page submission maximum for Track 3 include all attachments, exhibits, and templates?**

The page limit applies to the Project Narrative, and includes any charts, diagrams, graphic elements, or citations that applicants that may use to articulate their responses to prompts provided in the [NOFO](#). The page limit does not include items specifically identified in the [NOFO](#) as "attachments," such as required tables, needs assessments, asset maps, governance documents, memoranda of understanding, verification of community planning activities, or strategic plans.

### **36. For Track 3, can you provide examples of technology platforms, data systems, or financial management software?**

The Governor's Office for Children (GOC) does not have a preferred vendor list for technology platforms or systems. An ENOUGH partnership should consider where technology can be leveraged to facilitate and expedite various aspects of collaborative action and quality improvement, including cross-sector data sharing, continuous communications, community engagement, financial stewardship, sub-granting and monitoring ENOUGH funds, progress reporting, shared measurement, outreach, and advocacy.

### **37. What time do the applications have to be submitted on Sept. 20th / November 1st?**

Applications will be accepted until 11:59pm EST.

## APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

### **38. What are the application requirements?**

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The ENOUGH Grant Program includes three (3) competition tracks based on a community's readiness and capacity to advance through the ENOUGH Theory of Action. Each track has unique eligibility criteria. It is expected that most communities will start with Track 1: Partnership Development to establish a formal partnership governance structure, then engage in collaborative activities to pursue Track 2: Plan Development and Track 3: Implementation.

To begin the application process, applicants should submit a [Notice of Intent to Apply](#). Applicants submitting the Notice of Intent by **July 19, 2024** will receive a Community-specific [data dashboard](#) in early August 2024 and will be notified of technical assistance and training opportunities in the pre-award period.

**Track 1 applications are due November 1, 2024.** Applicants to Track 1: Partnership Development must demonstrate in their applications:

- a Community Quarterback with a history of successful collaboration with other local organizations,
- letters of commitment from organizations representing the three (3) core partners,
- community readiness to address at least one (1) ENOUGH Result Area, and
- clear plans for engaging community residents in reviewing and interpreting community needs and assets.

**Track 2 applications are due September 20, 2024.** Applicants to Track 2: Plan Development must demonstrate in their applications:

- a signed partnering agreement (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding) in place that defines roles, responsibilities, and commitments for a broad cross-sector of partners to support a clearly defined geographic area; and
- capacity to analyze community needs and assets, engage residents in planning, and leverage multiple funding streams.

**Track 3 applications are due September 20, 2024.** Applicants to Track 3: Implementation must provide in their applications:

- documentation of a formal, cross-sector partnership with an executed partnership agreement and history of collaboration;
- description and documentation of completed community needs assessments and asset mapping activities;
- demonstrated qualifications and capacity of the Community Quarterback organization to lead the Neighborhood Action Plan;
- details of the proposed Neighborhood Action Plan, including a Logic Model and multi-year Work Plan; and
- assurance that prioritized interventions are evidence-based.

Multiple documents need to be uploaded/submitted across the three application tracks. A full description of the application components and document templates are included in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

### ***39. Who will determine which applications receive funding?***

Applications will be reviewed by a State Review Team that may be composed of, but is not limited to, representatives of Children's Cabinet Agencies, the Governor's Office for Children, and expert reviewers with specialized knowledge of place-based strategies, anti-poverty

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initiatives, community-engaged processes, structural determinants of health and economic mobility, and/or racial equity. Applications will be evaluated based on the published review criteria in the ENOUGH Grant Program [NOFO](#), Section 6. Review Criteria. Proposed budget requests will be reviewed to ensure that costs are allowable and reasonable based on project scope.

### **40. What criteria will be used to determine which communities receive funding?**

Reviewers will score ENOUGH applications based on a robust review criteria. Full details are included in the ENOUGH Grant Program [NOFO](#), Section 6. Review Criteria. Highlights of review criteria for each track are summarized below.

**Track 1: Partnership Development** applicants will be evaluated based on the depth of community engagement and the Community Quarterback organization's capacity for leadership, management, and coordination. Community Quarterbacks and organizational partners will be expected to demonstrate experience in collaborative action, involving community residents in decision-making, and ensuring diverse, cross-sector engagement. Additionally, Track 1 prioritizes investments in developing partnerships that will improve outcome indicators in at least one ENOUGH Result Area.

**Track 2: Plan Development** applicants must demonstrate all competencies identified for Track 1, and additionally will be evaluated based on the quality and detail of the formal partnership structure as evidenced by signed partnering agreements (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding) and detailed governance structure. Partnerships will be evaluated based on their capacity to analyze community needs and assets, engage residents in planning, and leverage multiple revenue streams to create a robust Neighborhood Action Plan with strategies that address all four (4) Result Areas.

**Track 3: Implementation** applicants will be evaluated based on their engagement with diverse sectors and systems, robust governance structure, and ability to ensure that local leadership includes youth, families, and those with lived experience. Applications will also be evaluated on the comprehensiveness of local asset mapping and needs assessments in key areas like health, education, housing, and safety; citing detailed methodologies and reliable progress measures. Central to the Track 3 review will be evaluation of the proposed Neighborhood Action Plan with immediate and long-term goals, clear geographic boundaries, evidence-based strategies for all four (4) Result Areas, and processes for data monitoring and community leadership. Finally, Track 3 applicants will be assessed on the quality of their plans for sustaining efforts and achieving outcomes beyond the grant period.

### **41. Will GOC make more than one award to a given community?**

This is very unlikely. The ENOUGH Theory of Action depends on one partnership of community stakeholders working together to pursue a shared vision to end child poverty. Ideally organizations serving the same geography will submit a single, collaborative proposal that reflects community-identified priorities. Applicants proposing to serve the same geography with separate applications may be encouraged to coordinate their efforts or otherwise consolidate activities as a condition of award.



## ENOUGH Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

### ***42. Has GOC defined specifically how many awards will be rural, urban, and suburban?***

No. The GOC is committed to funding a representative portfolio of ENOUGH Grant Program grantees in FY 2025, including defined geographies located in rural jurisdictions ([NOFO](#)). There are no "set asides" for any particular geography. The actual number of awards will be influenced by a number of factors, including the quality of applications received and funds available.

## PROGRAM DESIGN

### ***43. Will the Community Quarterback be required or expected to sub-grant any funds awarded to the partner organizations in an ENOUGH partner collaborative?***

For Track 1: Partnership Development, it is allowable to sub-grant funds. For Tracks 2: Plan Development and Track 3: Implementation, the Community Quarterback will coordinate across partner organizations, which likely includes transfer, subcontract, or sub-grant of funds to Partnership member organizations to accomplish grant-funded activities.

The Community Quarterback must have capacity to administer grant funds or demonstrate that these functions can be executed through a partnership with a fiscal sponsor.

### ***44. Are Track 1: Partnership Development and Track 2: Plan Development grantees automatically awarded higher track funds, or must they reapply to move to the next track?***

No. Pending availability of funds, Track 1: Partnership Development and Track 2: Plan Development grantees will have the opportunity to apply for the subsequent track. To move from one track to the next, the ENOUGH community must demonstrate that they meet all the eligibility criteria of that track.

### ***45. Can a Track 1 grantee advance straight to Track 3 in the next cycle?***

Applicants will be evaluated based on the qualifying factors for each track in this first competition and in future fiscal years. Grantees that plan to apply for a second award in a future cycle should plan to progress only one track. Though Track 1 grantees will not be barred from submitting an application to Track 3, it would be unlikely that an application would be competitive for Track 3 based on the activities completed in the Track 1 project period alone.

### ***46. Must the Community Quarterback be the same entity in each subsequent round of funding?***

No. As the partnership and planning work evolves it's acceptable for the community to identify a different community quarterback as they apply for a new track. This particularly applies when a community from Track 1: Partnership Development is applying for Track 2: Plan Development.

Identifying a different Community Quarterback from track to track may be appropriate as activities expand and proceed, and should reflect community consensus around which entity is

## ENOUGH Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

best positioned to coordinate across partners and drive implementation. The partnership should not change Community Quarterbacks during the term of a grant.

### ***47. How will the jurisdictions be supported in their place-based work?***

Robust support will be provided to ENOUGH grant recipients. Supports will include, but are not limited to:

- Resource hub with trainings from experts on best practices and a data dashboard to aid communities in identifying assets and needs and making data-driven decisions
- Hands-on training and support from local and national experts, place-based state government staff, and relevant state agencies
- Support identifying and applying for private and public funding opportunities aligned with community needs and priorities.

### ***48. What technical assistance will be available to support those receiving ENOUGH grant funding?***

Track 1 Technical Support: Regional capacity building, technical assistance, and training via Local Management Boards (LMBs), supplemented by local service providers and national partners. Areas of focus may include community-driven participatory practices and engagement strategies, equitable governance and partnership structures, fiscal mapping, proposal writing, and data infrastructure.

Track 2 Technical Support: Access to dedicated GOC ENOUGH liaisons to facilitate navigating state agency systems and supports, plus tailored technical assistance from local capacity-building organizations and national partners to support communities as they develop Neighborhood Action Plans. Areas of focus may include community needs assessments and asset mapping, budgeting, program evaluation, work plan development, logic models, braiding and blending funds, and participatory processes.

Track 3 Technical Support: All listed supports for Track 2: Plan Development, plus adaptive coaching and technical assistance from representatives at each state agency, the GOC, and national partners.

### ***49. What are the core objectives of an ENOUGH Neighborhood Action Plan?***

The ENOUGH Grant Program provides targeted resources and technical assistance to help address the root causes of poverty at the community level by strengthening the capacity for collaborative action across sectors - including education, health, workforce, housing, and community safety.

Communities will have the opportunity to build partnerships and develop and/or implement a **Neighborhood Action Plan** aligned with the four (4) **ENOUGH Result Areas**:

- **Cradle to Career Education** - Unlocking children's potential through early care and education from birth until working in a career, including ensuring smooth transitions to and through kindergarten, middle school, and high school graduation with a pathway to college and/or career.
- **Healthy Families** - Ensuring community members and family access to high-quality, comprehensive healthcare with goals of decreasing infant mortality, increasing life expectancy, and improving behavioral health.

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- **Economically Secure Families** - Ensuring higher employment and entrepreneurship resulting in livable and family-sustaining wages, and stable, thriving households where families can provide necessities, weather hard times, and build wealth.
- **Safe and Thriving Communities** - Creating communities where residents feel safe and where the built environment supports their ability to thrive, including through high-quality, affordable housing; a thriving commercial core; and access to recreational spaces, nutritious food, and transportation.

### ***50. The biggest barrier to economic mobility in my community is gun violence (or substance abuse, or access to transportation, etc.)? Can I use the ENOUGH grant funding to focus on one key area?***

Track 3: Implementation grantees will use ENOUGH grant funds to implement their Neighborhood Action Plan. The Neighborhood Action Plan is a community-driven, place-based plan of action that was developed based on a comprehensive asset mapping and needs analysis, including an assessment of physical, behavioral, mental health, education, housing, economic, and safety needs of the community. The Neighborhood Action must address the four ENOUGH results areas, so funding cannot be used to exclusively focus on one area. However, if there are particular areas of focus in your community, investments can be prioritized for those areas.

Please see the Project Narrative Instructions for Track 3: Implementation in the [NOFO](#) for further details.

### ***51. What progress and outcome metrics will be used?***

To promote data fidelity and facilitate access to systems level indicators, GOC has partnered with [Clear Impact](#) to develop the [ENOUGH Data Dashboard](#). This Data Dashboard synthesizes progress measures and outcome indicators across all ENOUGH Result Areas to help applicants identify structural barriers and inequities, as well as establish benchmarks for improvement.

Applicants and grantees are also expected to examine local data disaggregated by **race/ethnicity** (when available) when engaging in the work of the ENOUGH Grant Program. The stark racial disparities and systemic inequities in family income, wealth generation, and economic mobility in the United States can be traced to broader structural barriers and interconnected systems and policies across all ENOUGH Result Areas. We recognize that, nationwide, communities with predominantly Black and/or indigenous residents and other residents of color have been disproportionately impacted by decades of disinvestment and harmful public policies that often systematized and reinforced race-based discrimination, residential segregation, and restricted access to resources. Using local disaggregated data, grantees can disrupt entrenched cycles of child poverty and forge new pathways to uplift families and children in these communities.

### ***52. What are ENOUGH State Agency Liaisons?***

ENOUGH State Agency Liaisons serve as a resource to ENOUGH Grant Program grantees. As a direct point of contact, ENOUGH State Agency Liaisons are representatives from the key state agencies serving on the Children's Cabinet who will provide critical assistance and support grantees in navigating (1) agency initiatives, (2) agency data, and (3) skill development, among other responsibilities.

## ENOUGH Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

### ***53. Do all ENOUGH Grantees receive support from ENOUGH State Agency Liaisons?***

While Track 1 grantees will work closely with their respective Local Management Board to receive support, Track 2 and Track 3 will receive support through the Governor's Office for Children and the ENOUGH State Agency Liaisons.

### ***54. How can a public school contribute to an ENOUGH application and implementation as a core partner?***

There are many ways a public school can contribute to the planning, development, and implementation of ENOUGH activities. For example, public school staff and volunteers could help children and families navigate and enroll in grant-funded programs, advise the "Cradle to Career" interventions that exist as community assets, implement programs to advance physical and mental health of students and their families, support the school community by hosting evening GED classes and other adult learning in their building, connect families to wraparound community services (e.g., food pantry, emergency shelter, utility assistance), and support data collection and analysis. Each ENOUGH Partnership Collaborative should co-create roles and responsibilities for each respective partner based on their specialized expertise, relationships, capacity, and priorities.

### ***55. Can the geographic boundaries I submit in my application change during the project period?***

Applicants should propose to serve a defined focus geography, and activities should be implemented in that geography starting in year one.

For Track 1 and Track 2, the focus geography could be expanded or adjusted during the project period with the approval of GOC, as long as doing so does not diminish the activities in the original focus community and the geography still includes an eligible census tract. For Track 3, applicants should plan to serve the same focus geography throughout the project period.

## GRANTS MANAGEMENT

### ***56. What can state grant funds be used for?***

Funds can be used to build the capacity of community-based organizations and collaborative partnerships to drive cross-sector, place-based action and implement a Neighborhood Implementation Plan aligned with the ENOUGH goals and objectives.

Each application must include a detailed budget including budget narratives to provide rationale and justification for each requested budget item, including a description of how requested funds fill identified gaps and advance the neighborhood's goals.

Allowable and Unallowable Costs are outlined in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) Appendix H.

## ENOUGH Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

### ***57. What are the reporting requirements?***

Beginning with FY25, at the end of each fiscal year, each jurisdiction receiving funds must prepare an annual report that includes:

- Accounting of financial receipts and expenditures
- Progress reports on the priority progress and outcome metrics within the categories included above as defined by the Governor's Office for Children.

### ***58. How will the funding allocated to Local Management Boards be used?***

[Local Management Boards \(LMBs\)](#) will receive ENOUGH LMB Capacity Building Grants to support Track 1 - Partnership Development applicants where relevant and other high poverty neighborhoods where there are no eligible Partnership Development applicants.

LMBs will engage experienced practitioners in order to provide technical assistance in the areas of participatory and engagement practices, equitable governance and partnership structures, fiscal mapping, fiscal management and budgeting, proposal writing, and development of a data infrastructure.

## **APPLICANT SUPPORT, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### ***59. What technical assistance will be available to support communities applying for ENOUGH funding?***

All communities interested in applying for an ENOUGH grant will receive technical assistance to support development of grant applications. Learn more about the technical assistance provided to ENOUGH grantees on the [Supports for Applicants](#) page of the Office's website

### ***60. Do I get a data dashboard regardless of track?***

Yes. Applicants that submit a Notice of Intent to Apply form by July 19, 2024 will receive a community-specific data dashboard in early August 2024.

### ***61. How do I access the ENOUGH Training Hub?***

The [online Training Hub](#) offers free and accessible training to all who register with their name and email address. Click register in the top right hand corner of the Training Hub site. When prompted to select the initiative you are associated with, be sure to select "ENOUGH Act." After registering once for the Training Hub, you can access the Training Hub any time by clicking sign in on the top right hand side of the site and entering your username and password.

### ***62. How do I know what training courses to enroll in on the Training Hub?***

The online Training Hub is separated into self-paced and live trainings. Additionally, the Hub is organized under four critical competencies for collaborative action. All courses are free and accessible to all. Based on interest or need, click on the competency of interest and opt into a self-paced or live training. The estimated time of completion for each training is labeled.

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### **63. How do I register for the ENOUGH webinars?**

A full list of live webinar opportunities and registration links are available on the [Supports for Applicants](#) page of the Office's website. Registration is required to participate in live webinars. Registered participants will receive all follow-up materials and access to the webinar recording, as well as an opportunity to pose questions to presenters and GOC representatives.

### **64. I'm having trouble accessing the ENOUGH webinar.**

If you are having trouble accessing resources and need assistance, please email [ENOUGH@maryland.gov](mailto:ENOUGH@maryland.gov) and we will be happy to support you.