

## Guide to Responsive Application - Community Needs Statement Question

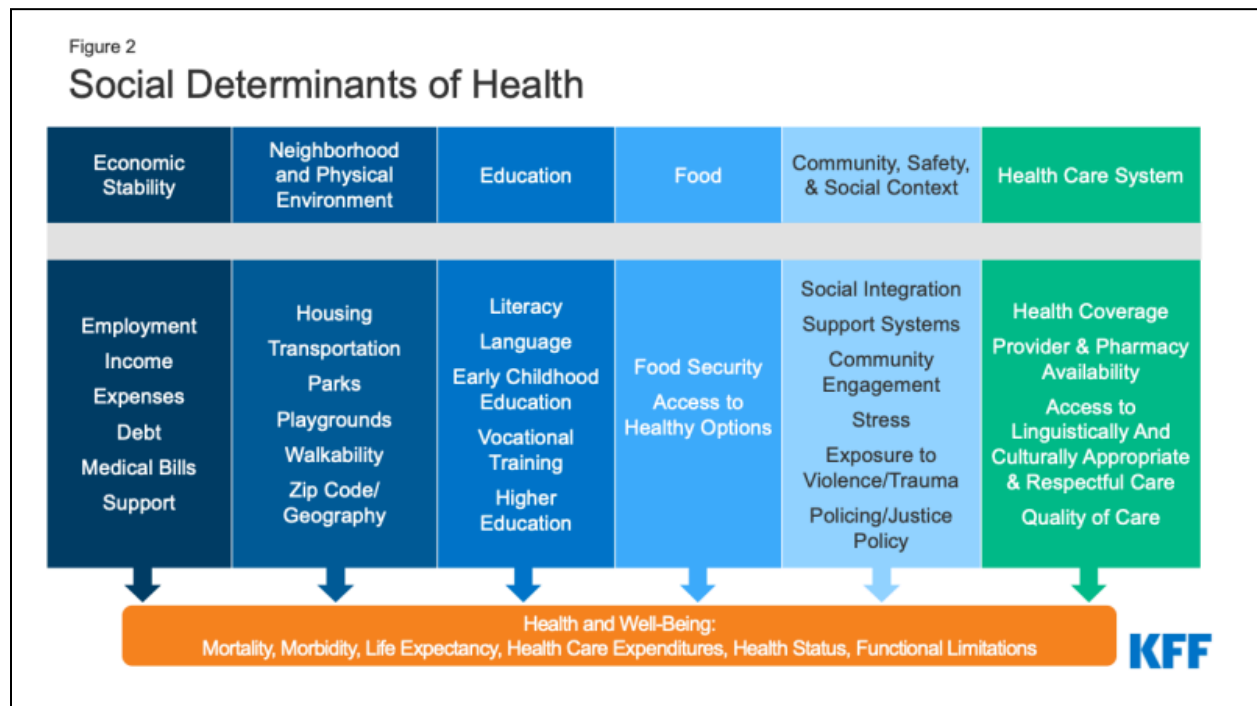
In April 2022, the Marillac Mission Fund's Executive Council adopted a new [Theory of Change](#) that recognizes the systems and conditions in our environment that impact the quality of life for all individuals, and guides our strategy for partnership with organizations and coalitions.

To reflect our new Theory of Change we have updated questions on our discretionary and responsive applications. This guide will offer definitions and examples to assist you in answering these questions in a way that is meaningful for you, your program, and your organization.

### Social Determinants of Health

Health and wellbeing are influenced by many factors including genetics, individual behavior, environmental and physical influences, medical care, and social factors. These five categories are interconnected. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. [Healthy People 2030](#) These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national, and local levels. [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)



<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-authorities-and-options-to-address-social-determinants-of-health-sdoh/>

Social determinants of health are neither negative nor positive and affect everyone, though that affect may not be experienced equitably across communities or regions. Social determinants, such as community characteristics, financial stability, social relationships, access to services, or employment status—can *increase* as well as *constrain* the capacity to be healthy. [Milbank Quarterly, 2019](#).

## **Index of Key Terms**

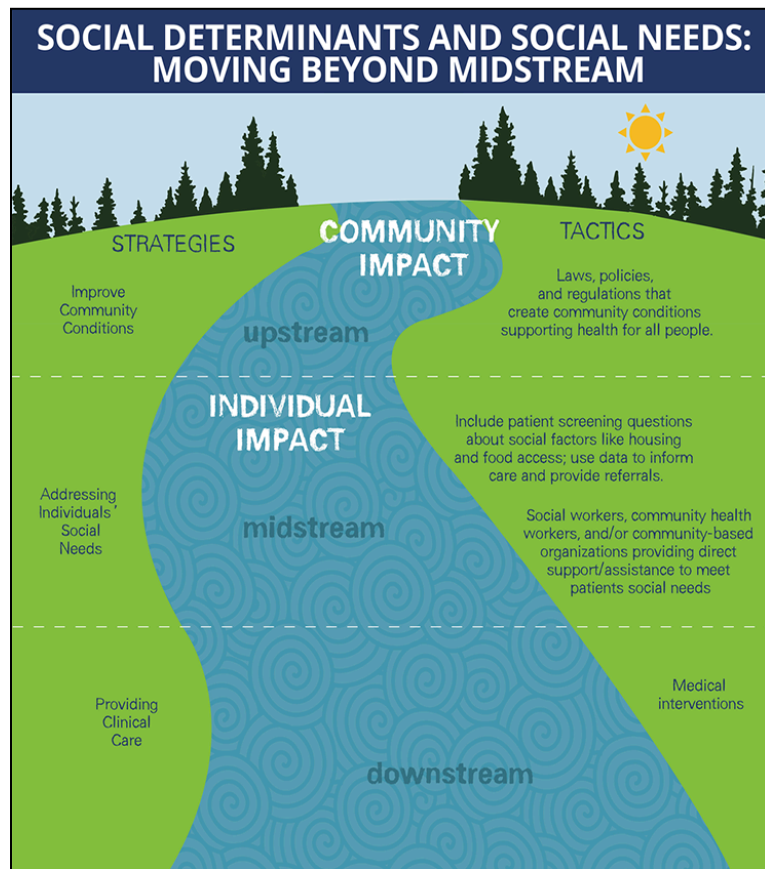
**Health Equity:** Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care. [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

**Social Determinants of Health:** Social determinants of health are defined by the World Health Organization as “the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age,” which are “shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources.” Underlying structural factors, such as a country’s macroeconomic policy; public policies on education, housing, social security, and other areas; and broader cultural and institutional contexts shape the distribution of resources across society and people’s social position within it. These structural factors, in turn, shape more downstream social factors, such as living and working conditions, and access to money and other basic resources, which form the circumstances of people’s daily lives. The interactions of these factors shape health and health inequities. Social determinants shape health for better or worse. Higher income, for example, is associated with better health, while lower income is associated with worse health. [Milbank Quarterly, 2019](#)

**Population Health:** Population health has been defined as the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group. Social determinants are just one group of factors that shape population health, alongside health care, genetics, behaviors, commercial influences, and more. Estimates differ, but most studies suggest that social, economic, environmental, and other nonmedical factors play a greater role in shaping population health than health care services. [Milbank Quarterly, 2019](#)

**Social Risk Factors:** Social risk factors are specific adverse social conditions that are associated with poor health, like social isolation or housing instability. These social risks have very real impacts on health and health care. Social risk factors are not the same as behavioral risk factors, which include smoking, alcohol intake, other substance use, lack of exercise, and unhealthy diet. In one sense, the two are intertwined. Social factors shape individual behavior. [Milbank Quarterly, 2019](#)

**Social Needs:** Social needs focus on the individual or family determinants of health, including preferences and perceptions, as well as real-time gaps that impede one’s health, well-being, and safety. This can include the risk of eviction, access to healthy meals, or transportation to a job or doctor’s appointment. [United Healthcare](#)



<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20190115.234942/>

### Additional Resources

[The Social Determinants of Health: It's Time to Consider the Causes of the Causes](#), Paula Braveman, Laura Gottlieb, Public Health Rep. 2014 Jan-Feb; 129(Suppl 2): 19–31. doi: 10.1177/00333549141291S206

Magnan, S. 2017. Social Determinants of Health 101 for Health Care: Five Plus Five. NAM Perspectives. Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC. <https://doi.org/10.31478/201710c>

## Application Updates

### AQ5: Community Need Statement

Part 1: Using the checkbox list provided, please select *up to three* social determinants of health/structural factors that impact, either positively or negatively, the individuals or communities served through this project, or by your organization:

- Economic Stability
- Neighborhood and Physical Environment
- Education
- Food
- Community and Social Context
- Health Care System

Part 2: Explain the community needs or gaps in services to be addressed by this grant and how they relate to the social determinants of health you've selected. Please include examples specific to your geographic area, population served, and focus area selected. This may include quantitative or qualitative data from existing research, and/or organizational evaluation.

### AQ17: Advocacy (for Advocacy and Coalition-Building requests)

How does your project address the impact of the social determinants of health on the individuals or communities you serve, and identify if your strategy/tactics are upstream, midstream, or downstream. NOTE: Currently, MMF is funding projects at all levels of change.

### **Example**

Part 1: Economic Stability, Food, Neighborhood & Physical Environment

Part 2: According to the most recent Self Sufficiency Standard data, a family in Smith county requires \$38,920 annually to meet their basic needs (244% of the Federal Poverty Level). The median family income in our county is \$24,000 (*economic stability*) and even lower in the zip code we serve where 33% of residents live more than 10 miles from the closest grocery store and our local transit authority currently only offers one bus route in the area, with limited hours. Along with barriers to *food security* and transportation (*neighborhood & physical environment*), our local free medical clinic reports rising levels of chronic health conditions in their patients that are directly impacted by nutrition.