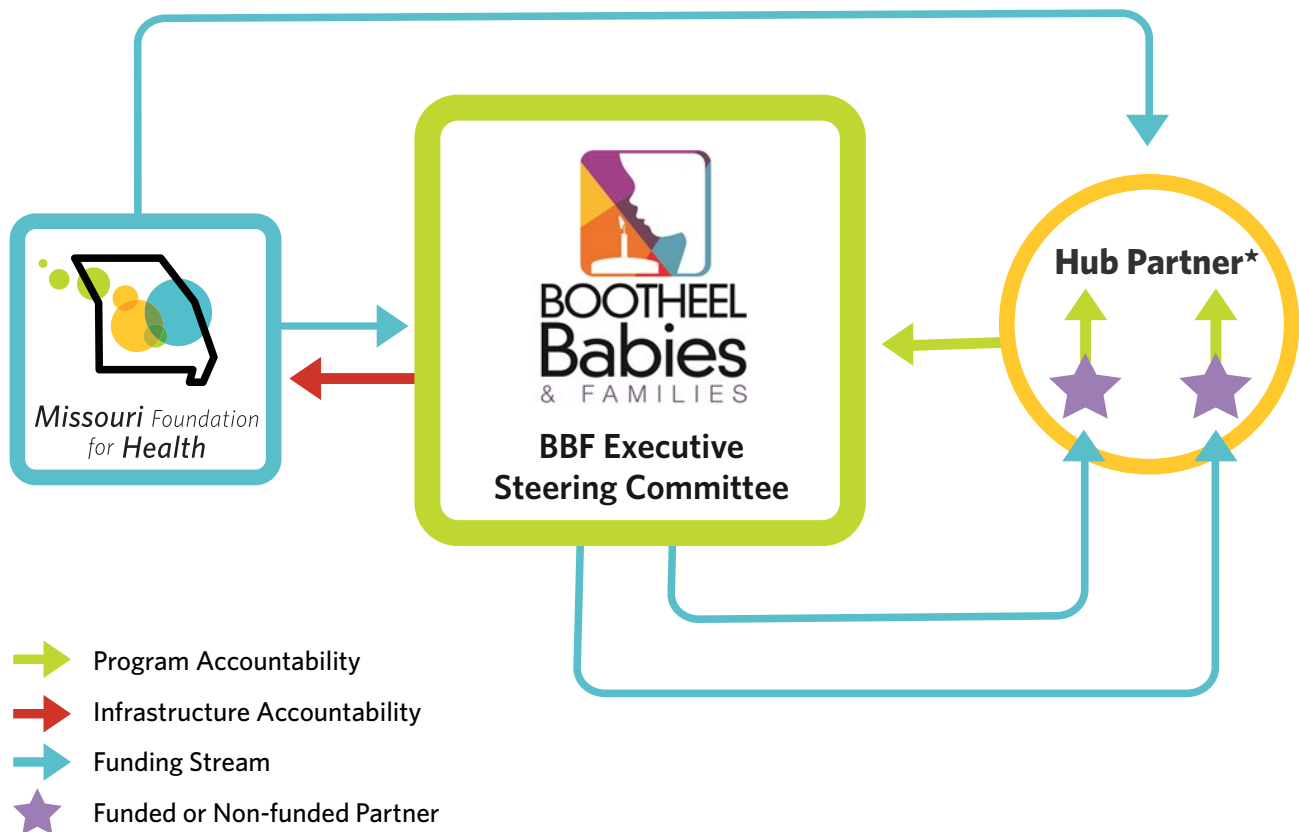


Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative Hub Partners

What is a Hub Partner?

The Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative's (IMRI) Hub Partners are designed to serve as community extensions of the Bootheel Babies and Families' (BBF) collective efforts to mobilize and engage multi-sector partners in infant mortality reduction strategies. Hub Partners are county-based organizations who will build trust, identify opportunities, facilitate dialogue toward solutions, consult with and inform BBF's Steering Committee of existing services, and monitor and support organizations receiving Aligned Activities funding and others engaging in partnership-driven activities that align with the BBF's strategic priorities.

Flow of BBF Programmatic Structure



* This program will consist of 6 Hub Partners

Why were Hub Partners developed?

Communities and individuals closest to challenging health issues often have the greatest insights regarding potential solutions. Agencies and organizations need an opportunity to discover ways to align across multiple sectors to facilitate those solutions. A foundational principle of IMRI has been to develop and support a community-led initiative. BBF's Steering Committee's ongoing work has been informed by community listening sessions, and community reviewers were retained to provide feedback on potential projects from the community's perspective for the IMRI Collaborative Grant Program. As we enter the

second half of MFH's 10-year IMRI commitment, BBF is prepared to take further steps to empower the Bootheel region to take a leadership role on this issue.

Hub Partners will serve as anchors in their counties to facilitate inclusive community engagement around the social, racial, and economic factors affecting infant mortality, with attention to decreasing the gap between white and black infant death rates. Hub Partners will establish a collaborative learning environment that informs residents, develops diverse partnerships, and advocates for policy changes that will empower communities toward more localized solutions.

How will Hub Partners be funded?

A Request for Applications (RFA) will open to eligible organizations in the six-county Bootheel Region (Stoddard, New Madrid, Mississippi, Scott, Pemiscot, and Dunklin). The application will provide details on Hub Partner eligibility requirements, responsibilities, and allowable expenses to support Hub Partner functions in their respective counties. BBF's Executive Committee will work with MFH to institute inclusive, transparent processes that allow informed resource allocation decisions. These processes will represent best practices for collaborative decision-making, ensure fiduciary responsibility of funds, and show accountability for funds to community stakeholders.

To whom are Hub Partners accountable?

Hub Partners will be accountable to the BBF Executive Committee in their responsibilities as community outreach ambassadors, informing and consulting BBF on data, assets, and needs within their respective counties. Hub Partners will be accountable to BBF's Executive Committee for proposed strategies and related activities demonstrating progress toward desired IMRI outcomes. Hub Partners will also be accountable to their respective communities as credible organizations who can be seen as a knowledgeable resource and a convener, facilitating discussions on complex issues affecting infant mortality. BBF's Executive Committee will review required reports from Hub Partners, provide feedback to the organizations on their performance, and make recommendations to MFH for approval and release of subsequent grant disbursements.