



REQUEST FOR CONTRACTED SERVICE PROPOSALS

Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative  
**Health Equity Consultation for  
Bootheel Babies and Families**



*Missouri* Foundation  
for *Health*

*a catalyst for change*



## Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative

The Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI) was established in 2013 to address the disproportionately high rates of infant death in portions of St. Louis and the six counties that make up Missouri's Bootheel. Using the **Collective Impact** framework, MFH partners with organizations and communities, working together toward a shared goal—a significant decrease in infant mortality rates and closing the gap in mortality rates between black and white babies in these geographical locations by 2022.

In the Bootheel, the collaborative effort, **Bootheel Babies and Families (BBF)**, is led by an executive council of volunteers with input from a larger regional advisory task force, and support from full-time staff, a fiscal sponsor (Network for Strong Communities), and various learning and strategic consultants. A network of six organizations from each of the six Bootheel counties (Hub Partners) represent the community engagement arm of the initiative.

In addition to creating a shared understanding of the drivers of infant mortality, the initiative includes a variety of system interventions for impact through the work of the various initiative partners. The IMRI promotes the gathering and exchange of insights for collective learning and improvement. As the initiative advances toward greater impact, it is essential that an equity lens and community-focused decision-making practices permeate throughout the partners and activities of this effort.

## Description of Services Required

MFH, on behalf of Bootheel Babies and Families, is seeking a consultant to provide assistance to the collaborative in understanding health equity and racial and economic disparities within the context of the six-county Bootheel region.

To truly address issues related to health equity within the Bootheel region, it is critical that the consultant:

- Has documented expertise and experience in working with rural populations and engaging diverse community members
- Has expertise in implicit bias and systemic racism with the capacity to communicate its impacts on health, economic, and social outcomes in diverse communities
- Can address health equity broadly, recognizing there are many contributors to inequity, including racial, social, and economic disparities
- Has documented experience in collective impact initiatives, or asset-based methods of bringing disparate partners together to align around a common goal
- Can provide BBF recommendations for community-led equity implementation strategies that align with BBF regional priorities

BBF Executive Council requires the following deliverables:

- County-specific data-driven assessment of disparities
- County-specific identification of social/structural determinants
- Training regarding bias and cultural sensitivity
- Development of toolkits, surveys, and other tools to be used by BBF to advance discussions and



interventions related to disparities

- Assistance in developing strategies to build awareness within communities related to disparities

The proposed contract may be up to 24 months in duration. If selected, contractor will be required to enter into a Service Agreement with MFH. To review the terms of the agreement, [click here](#).

## Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted online.

To begin a proposal, [click here](#).

To return to a proposal in progress, log in to your [Account](#).

## Contact and Deadline

If you have questions please contact Adelina Mart, Program Officer, at [amart@mffh.org](mailto:amart@mffh.org) or (314) 345-5546. The proposal is due no later than midnight on August 13, 2019 (CST).

An informational webinar will be hosted on July 22nd with MFH and BBF staff to answer any additional applicant questions. The recorded webinar will also be available on the MFH website.

For more information on the online submission process, [click here](#). If there are additional questions, please contact Jenny Minelli, Program Assistant, at [jminelli@mffh.org](mailto:jminelli@mffh.org) or (314) 345-5531.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

MFH will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status. Respondent will be required to affirm respondent will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status either in its employment practices or in its policies and procedures on account of any services, or activities made possible by or resulting from an agreement resulting from this RFP. Any violation of this provision shall be considered a violation of a material provision of this procurement and shall be grounds for cancellation, termination or suspension in whole or in part of any related agreement by the MFH.

MFH is committed to ensuring that equal opportunity is provided to minority and woman-owned enterprises and that its contractors have active programs for ensuring diversity in their workforce and sensitivity to the issues of race and gender.

## Proposal Requirements

- Submission acknowledgement.** Complete and submit the one-page acknowledgement form.
- Proposal narrative** (please include section headings below)



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- **Organization name and primary contact information.**
- **Approach to services.** Provide a brief description of the approach to services that addresses each of the following objectives:
  - Assessing levels of disparities and social/structural determinants for each of the six Hub Partner counties (New Madrid, Scott, Pemiscot, Dunklin, Mississippi, Stoddard)
  - Expanding understanding of bias and cultural sensitivity among various types of audiences (BBF staff, Executive Council, hubs, engaged general audiences)
  - Developing and implementing appropriate tools to be used by BBF partners to advance discussions, implement interventions, and measure outcomes related to disparities
  - Developing strategies and capacity for IMRI partners (staff, Executive Council, hubs, engaged general audiences) to build awareness within communities related to disparities and engage diverse community members in the work
- **Deliverables and proposed timeline.** Provide a work plan and timeline that incorporates at a minimum the deliverables listed above, under “Description of Services.”
- **Organizational history and qualifications.** Provide a summary of experience and qualifications of the organization’s staff as well as any proposed subcontractors. Include bios of key personnel.
  - Address experience working with rural populations and/or coalitions.
  - Address experience in collective impact initiatives or asset-based methods to bring disparate partners together to align around a common goal.
- Cost proposal.** Provide a detailed cost proposal and justification for professional services (hourly rate and number of hours), travel specifically related to the project, subcontractor fees (attach proposal or contract), and other direct costs related specifically to the project. MFH reserves the right to negotiate proposed costs. Note: Requested travel will be reimbursed for coach airfare, reasonable lodging, rental car or public transportation, meals and incidentals expenses at reimbursed amount not to exceed the federal per diem rate.
- Intellectual property list.** If applicable, attach list of intellectual property.
- Additional required documents:**
  - The names and contact information of 2 – 3 individuals or organizations the Foundation can contact to verify past work.
  - Completed W-9 form

### Proposal Review and Evaluation

Proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of this RFP. Only those proposals that meet all the mandatory criteria in the RFP will be given consideration.



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Review of proposals will be conducted jointly by MFH staff and BBF partners. One to two finalists may be asked to participate in an in-person interview with BBF Executive Team and MFH staff.

A respondent's submission of a proposal in no way guarantees procurement by Missouri Foundation for Health. MFH will not reimburse a respondent for the cost of developing or presenting a proposal in response to this RFP.

### **Right to Reject**

MFH reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals submitted
- Request additional information from any or all respondents
- Conduct discussions with respondents to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements
- Negotiate modifications to a respondent's proposal prior to final award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers
- Approve subcontractors proposed or used in carrying out the work

### **About Missouri Foundation for Health**

Missouri Foundation for Health is a resource for the region, working with communities and nonprofits to generate and accelerate positive changes in health. As a catalyst for change, the Foundation improves the health of Missourians through partnership, experience, knowledge and funding. To learn more please visit [mffh.org](http://mffh.org).