



## Civic Engagement: Building Health Equity Through Community Voice

This request for applications (RFA) invites organizations to apply for funds to support civic engagement projects that focus on community-articulated health priorities. This includes work to increase civic engagement among local populations that have valuable perspectives and ideas, but for various reasons do not currently participate in the democratic process.

Increased health equity and improvement in health outcomes depends on community inclusivity and voice. The improvement of health outcomes is reliant not only on programmatic factors such as community-focused prevention efforts, access to high-quality health care, access to healthy food, and safe physical environments, but also contingent on how policies are shaped, and resources are allocated. Therefore, it is critical that communities are engaged as part of the decision-making process, especially those populations with the worst health outcomes and greatest barriers to accessing care.

### Key Application Dates

<b>Open Date:</b>	<b>Monday, July 22, 2019</b>
<b>Close Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at midnight (CT)</b>
<b>Anticipated Award Date:</b>	<b>October 2019</b>

The intended objectives for projects under Building Health Equity Through Community Voice include:

- Building ongoing, year-round civic engagement efforts into health equity issue work;
- Mobilizing populations that are new to the democratic process, historically underrepresented, and affected by health disparities;
- Seeking out and developing trusted leaders drawn from the very communities they will work to mobilize; and
- Developing stronger organizational capacity to do issues-based, local civic engagement work.

MFH is interested in projects that will connect with, listen to, and empower Missourians to activate their own voices to create self-determined, health-related, local change. Applicants are required to identify and describe the health equity issue area(s) and how the project will engage historically underrepresented populations in policy, systems change, and the democratic process. Engaging the



public in this way requires a variety of tactics which might include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing individuals and communities' civic participation
- Outreach to new and underrepresented voices, including infrequent voters
- Providing health-related issue education and empowerment
- Elevating community voices to educate policy makers on health-related issues of importance to communities

Grants will be awarded to organizations whose proposals demonstrate the following:

- Representation of a population disproportionately affected by health disparities;
- Engagement of these populations to identify local, community health priorities;
- Experience in mobilizing network members and communities to accelerate change;
- Experience in utilizing advocacy and/or grassroots organizing to affect change; or
- Collaboration with other organizations in the implementation of grant activities.

### **Budget and Awards**

Applicants may apply for up to two years of funding. Award amounts will vary, and applicants should submit a budget that aligns with the scope of the project, supports proposed activities, and clearly connects activities or outcomes with line item requests.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Applicants must be nonprofit or governmental entities and meet the general [MFH funding guidelines](#) available on the Foundation's website. Organizations with experience in community-level engagement/grassroots organizing are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants may apply with a fiscal agent or sponsor.

- A fiscal agent is a non-profit organization that is in good standing with the state of Missouri and performs various administrative management and oversight functions for another agency or 501(c)(3) organization.
- A fiscal sponsor is a non-profit organization that is in good standing with the state of Missouri and performs various administrative management and oversight functions for a group that is not registered as a 501(c)(3) organization.

If funded, the fiscal agent/sponsor and applicant organization will be responsible for all terms and conditions of the Grant Award Agreement for the duration of the grant. For purposes of the grant application, MFH will require financial information from both the applicant organization and the fiscal agent/sponsor.

### **How to Apply**

Applications will be accepted beginning July 22, 2019, and must be received by August 28, 2019, at midnight (Central Time). Please plan accordingly and submit your application well before the deadline as MFH cannot accept late applications.



To start a new application, [click here](#).

To return to an application in progress, [click here](#).

### Application Requirements

Applications that do not contain all of the required documentation or are not in required MFH format will not be reviewed unless applicant has contacted and obtained approval from the Foundation prior to submission. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

- **Application acknowledgement.** Complete and submit the **one-page acknowledgement form**. If using a fiscal agent/sponsor, the acknowledgement should include both the applicant and fiscal agent/sponsor's names and signatures.
- **Application narrative.** Address each section below. The application narrative can be up to eight pages and must be 1.5 spaced with at least 11-point Arial or Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. Only those proposals that submit required attachments in MFH format will be given consideration.

#### A. Applicant Capacity and Experience

- Provide a brief overview of the applicant organization's mission and vision. Include population(s) served and the geographic region of your service.
- Discuss how the applicant organization views health equity as a lens in which you view your work.
- Describe applicant organization's experience with advocacy, grassroots organizing, and voter registration, education, and mobilization.
- Provide a brief summary of your project.

#### B. Issue Area

- Identify and describe the community-articulated health equity issue area(s) (including relevant systems and policies) that the organization is proposing to work on. Provide any relevant data on the issue and highlight any data that demonstrates the existing disparities.

#### C. Civic Engagement Project

- Describe in detail the proposed civic engagement project and how the organization will mobilize the impacted communities to accelerate local change.
- Identify and describe the populations that will be engaged by the applicant and why they are a good fit for the objectives of this RFA.
  - Include whether the organization has direct relationships with leaders in these communities and describe those relationships.
- Identify any other organizations that will serve as partners in key roles for this initiative, with a clear delineation of roles and mechanisms for ensuring accountability when necessary.

#### D. Funding Sources. List any in-kind services or other sources of funding, if applicable.

- **Project plan:** The project plan expands on the information provided in the application narrative. The project plan will also be used by the applicant organization and MFH to monitor the progress of the work and evaluate the degree of success at the conclusion of the award. Download and complete the [Project Outcomes template here](#).
- **Budget spreadsheet and narrative.** Download and complete the [MFH budget guidelines and template in](#)



## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

the What We Fund section on the [Funding Guidelines](#) page of the MFH website. Please note: Budgets must be submitted using the MFH budget format and as a Word document.

- ☐ **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).** Include a signed MOA from each partner outlining roles and responsibilities between the applicant and partner organization(s). A sample MOA is [available here](#).
- ☐ **Financial documents.** Applicants must submit the following documents. If using a fiscal agent/sponsor financial documents for both the applicant organization and fiscal agent/sponsor organization are required.
  - Audit report or IRS Form 990 issued less than 15 months prior to the date of application submission
  - Financial statements for the most recent annual accounting period
  - Current year's approved budget
  - Current unaudited income statement and balance sheet issued fewer than 75 days prior to the date of application submission

*Note:* If the applicant organization does not have either an annual audit report or IRS Form 990 or 990 EZ, provide explanation and the following:

- Financial statements (income statement and balance sheet) for the most annual accounting period and current year:
  - ☐ compiled by an external accounting firm; or
  - ☐ prepared by the applicant organization and reviewed and approved by the applicant organization's governing body.
- ☐ **Fiscal agent/sponsor explanation.** If using a fiscal agent/sponsor, the applicant organization submits a written explanation outlining why one is needed. In addition, a signed MOA outlining the roles and responsibilities between the applicant organization and the fiscal agent/sponsor must be submitted.

## Additional Considerations

The Foundation reserves the right to:

- Request additional information from any or all applicants
- Conduct discussions with applicants to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the application requirements
- Request modifications to a respondent's application prior to final award to ensure alignment of project elements with the [core values, mission](#), and operating standards of the Foundation
- Approve subcontractors proposed or used in carrying out the work
- Reject any or all applications submitted

## Inquiries

If you have questions about the goals or content of this RFA please contact Nicole Brueggeman, Community and Advocacy Affairs Manager, at [nbrueggeman@mffh.org](mailto:nbrueggeman@mffh.org). No phone calls please.

For more information on the online application system, [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.



## 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).

## Advocacy at MFH

The Foundation has a long-standing commitment to engaging in advocacy, including civic and community engagement efforts that connect to the health of Missourians. MFH is committed to building and supporting healthy and thriving communities, and in order to achieve these outcomes, residents must take an active role. Through civic engagement activities people develop and use knowledge, skills, and voice to cultivate positive changes in health and well-being for all. A civically engaged population demonstrates that people not only care about their community and nation but are also motivated to participate.