



Missouri Foundation
for Health

a catalyst for change

Gun Suicide Prevention Initiative – Planning Grants

This Request for Applications (RFA) invites organizations in the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) service region to apply for funds to plan the development of a community-based, multi-sector, collaborative program that aims to reduce gun suicides in a population of interest.

Suicide rates have risen more than 30% in 25 states between 1999 and 2016. In Missouri, suicides have increased 36% from 1999 to 2018, making it the tenth-leading cause of death (the 19th highest rate in the nation). Nationally, suicide rates have increased among both sexes, all racial and ethnic groups, all age groups under 75, and in all geographic settings. The prevalence of suicide is nevertheless disproportionately high among a variety of population groups from a wide range of geographies and backgrounds. These groups include teens, young adults, elderly, veterans, and individuals identifying as LGBTQ.

KEY DATES	
Close Date:	June 8, 2020
Anticipated Award Notification:	November 30, 2020
RFA Informational Webinar:	March 3, 2020
Informational Webinar: View at the Bottom of This Page	

Guns are a uniquely lethal method of suicide. In Missouri, six out of every 10 suicides involve a gun, with approximately 85% of attempts ending in death. Research shows that a person can think about suicide for an extended period, but the decision to act in a brief and vulnerable moment can happen in less than one hour. Having access to a gun at this time can determine whether someone lives or dies.

Nationwide, there is a growing awareness of promising evidence-based strategies to reduce gun suicide deaths. Examples include lethal means safety counseling, distribution of gun locking devices, safer gun storage in homes, and incorporating suicide prevention into gun safety trainings. [The American Public Health Association](#), [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#), [Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence](#), and [Means Matter](#) are a few examples of sources with beneficial resources.

The purpose of this opportunity is to support organizations in planning the development of a program for populations with high rates of gun suicide. Organizations will apply for planning grants to develop a program adapting or utilizing promising, evidence-based strategies to reduce gun suicides. Given the complex factors that impact suicide (economics, mental health, occupation, substance misuse, etc.) the applicant organization is expected to represent a group of organizations committed to collaborating and aligning around preventing gun suicide deaths in their community. The applicant organization will be responsible for submitting a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) from each partnering organization. Partners may include, but are not limited to, community health centers, hospitals, behavioral health centers, mental health centers, law enforcement, schools, prisons, faith-based organizations, trade associations, emergency medical services, gun shop owners, and other social service organizations.





MFH recognizes organizations that are selected to receive funding may have varying levels of experience with suicide prevention work. As needed, the Foundation is prepared to provide awarded organizations assistance and guidance from consultants with expertise or working knowledge based on the targeted population and/or strategies being proposed through the planning process. Applicants should identify needed support/resources to develop the intervention to reduce gun suicides in the [Planning Grant Work Plan template](#). Organizations receiving funding will be expected to work with external consultants identified by the Foundation to design communications messaging tailored for the targeted population and create program evaluation measures. Organizations receiving funding will also be required to participate in a Foundation-facilitated learning community with other organizations engaged in similar work. During the planning period, grantees and partner organizations should anticipate participating in two meetings each year.

Applicants will submit a work plan that outlines proposed planning activities and a detailed budget to support those activities. See the Application Requirements section for further details. The deadline to apply for planning grants is June 8, 2020. The planning grant time duration is up to 24 months.

At the end of the planning grant period, organizations that have developed a program and are positioned for implementation will be eligible to apply for up to five years of implementation funding.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be nonprofit or governmental entities and meet the general [MFH funding guidelines](#) available on the Foundation's website. Organizations and groups such as law enforcement, emergency medical responders, home health care organizations, schools, veteran groups, higher education institutions, farming cooperatives, recreational gun organizations are 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 applicant organization and fiscal agent/sponsor will be responsible for all terms and conditions of the Grant Award Agreement for the duration of the grant.

How to Apply

The deadline to apply has been extended. Applications now must be received by Monday, June 8, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (CT). 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

Projects may be proposed for up to 24 months. Award recipients will choose a start date of January 1 or February 1, 2021, and projects must end no later than December 31, 2022. Award amounts for individual projects will vary. 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.



- **Application acknowledgement.** Complete and submit the [one-page acknowledgement form](#).
 - **Application narrative.** Address each item in the following section. The application narrative can be up to eight pages, excluding the work plan and must be double-spaced with at least 11-point Arial or Times New Roman font and one-inch margins.
 1. Briefly state your organization’s mission. Include the following information in your response.
 - a Why is reducing gun suicides relevant to your organization’s mission?
 - b Explain any previous or current work in suicide prevention. Note: Prior experience is not necessary for submitting a proposal.
 2. Fill-out the [work plan template](#) to outline the program planning process to reduce gun suicides.
 3. What challenges do you think you might experience during the planning of this program? What are possible solutions for these challenges?
 4. **Organizational History and Qualifications.** Provide a summary of the organization’s staff as well as any proposed subcontractors’ experience and qualifications on suicide prevention or with the target population.
 5. **Funding Sources.** List any in-kind services or other sources of funding, if applicable.
 - **Budget spreadsheet and narrative.** Download and complete the [MFH budget guidelines and template](#). Budgets must be submitted using the MFH budget format and as a Word document. Please be sure to include expenses for the travel of all attendees to the two learning community meetings that will be a maximum 4-hour driving distance.
 - **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).** Include a signed MOA from each partner outlining roles and responsibilities between the applicant and partner organization(s). If your organization currently has a formalized collaboration with an existing entity related to this work, submit a copy of the MOA that defines the roles and responsibilities for each member. 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, 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, a written explanation outlining why one is needed. In addition, a signed MOA outlining the roles and responsibilities between the applicant and fiscal agent/sponsor must be submitted.
 - **Conflict of Interest Disclosure.** Complete and submit the [disclosure form](#).



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 Renetta Mosley, Strategist – Initiatives, at rmosley@mffh.org or (314) 345-5536.

For more information on the online application system, [click here](#). If there are additional questions, please contact Steve Frisbee, Project Analyst, at sfrisbee@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.