

Gun Suicide Prevention—Planning Grants Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MFH has extended the deadline for this RFA.

Close Date: June 8, 2020

Anticipated Award Notifications: November 30, 2020

Award Start Date: January 1 or February 1, 2021

The information below reflects the updated timelines.

Is there a recording of the webinar available?

Yes, you may access a recording at the bottom of [this page](#).

Who are the MFH staff contacts if there are questions about the application?

Please email Renetta Mosley, initiative strategist, at rmosley@mffh.org with questions regarding your ideas or to set up an appointment to talk through this funding opportunity. Contact Steve Frisbee, project analyst, at sfrisbee@mffh.org with questions regarding the budget or online application system.

What is the purpose of the planning grants?

The planning grants will allow selected grantees to work toward developing a program that mitigates the quick and convenient access to firearms for people experiencing mental distress or suicidal ideation. Nationally, promising practices are beginning to show a decrease in gun suicides by using evidence-based strategies. Organizations are expected to work with community partners in researching & identifying these strategies to adapt or utilize in its community. Organizations may request funding for up to 24 months.

When does the Request for Application close?

The deadline to apply has been extended. Applications will now close on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Please make sure your application is complete with all supporting documentation or it will not be accepted. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact [Steve Frisbee](#) for assistance.

What is the budget amount applicants can request for the grant?

Budget amounts will vary according to the proposed planning process. Applicants are encouraged to propose budget requests that align with the activities outlined in the work plan. Applicants may request the total plan budget be covered for funding.

Is MFH looking for a specific type of work during the planning process in order to be funded for this opportunity?

No, MFH recognizes organizations applying for funding will have varying levels of work planned in order to develop a program to reduce gun suicides utilizing promising practices. Proposed plans should align with the goals of the RFA and demonstrate how your activities will reduce gun suicides. We encourage you to communicate with [Renetta Mosley](#) if you have questions about the scope of your proposed plan for this RFA.

When will organizations know if their application was selected for funding?

The anticipated award notification will be the end of November 2020. Award recipients will choose a start date of January 1 or February 1, 2021. All planning activity must end no later than December 31, 2022.

What if the applicant's proposed planning period is less than 24 months? Is it possible to transition to the implementation phase?

Only at the end of the planning grant period will awardees that have developed a program and are positioned for implementation be invited to apply for implementation funding. No matter the duration of the proposed plan, grantees will be expected to work with MFH and external consultants (which will be identified by the Foundation) to create program evaluation measures, design communications messaging tailored for the identified population, and participate in two learning community meetings each year with other organizations engaged in similar work.

Would an organization based outside of the Foundation's service area qualify for funding if the target population for the program is still within the approved region?

Yes, but the majority of the target population must be located within [MFH's service area](#) and applicants must be registered to conduct business and in good standing with the state of Missouri.

Can an organization submit as the applicant organization and be included as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partner for another organization applying for this funding?

Yes, the applicant organization can also be a MOU partner for another organization's application. However, an organization cannot submit as the primary application on more than one application.

Does having a larger organization serve as the applicant make for a stronger application?

No. Applications will be reviewed on the strength of the proposed plan to reduce gun suicides within a budget that is reasonable and aligned with the application narrative. Applicant organizations should have the capacity to plan activities, manage partnerships, and administer grant funds appropriately.

Are multiple partners or funding sources required?

There is no maximum number of partners required. We recognize the complex factors that impact suicide and anticipate the applicant organization will partner with one or more additional organizations to effectively plan for the development of a program. Partners may provide human, financial, or other resources to the proposed work. A MOU should be included with the application if a partner will be compensated for their contribution.

Should applicants include an evaluation partner in their proposal?

No, MFH will provide evaluation design support and consultation to grantees throughout the planning grant period. During the planning period, evaluation consultants will help design a program evaluation relevant to individual program plans and ensure that evaluation data can be captured and analyzed across all grantee plans.

Can a pilot project be funded within the planning grant process to later be scaled larger during the implementation phase?

MFH anticipates organizations applying for funding will have diverse experience with suicide prevention work. If during the planning phase, an organization would like to test specific elements as part of the program development process, the organization should reach out and discuss the proposed work with [Renetta Mosley](#) before submitting the application. All inquiries will be determined on a case-by-case basis.