



REQUEST FOR CONTRACTED SERVICE PROPOSALS

Envisioning a Health Equity Scorecard for Missouri



**Missouri Foundation
for Health**

a catalyst for change



Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to conduct background research that will guide development of a yearly health equity scorecard for Missouri. Information gathered during this project will elucidate a range of potential use cases for the scorecard and identify key stakeholders, potential collaborators, data assets, and gaps. The research will highlight challenges to be overcome and identify opportunities to establish innovative new health equity data projects to feed into scorecard development. This project is the “discovery” phase of a long-term initiative MFH has undertaken to improve the quality, quantity, usability, and accessibility of data to promote health equity across the state.

General Requirements

Research continues to show that discrimination and exclusion based on intersections of race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability strongly influence Americans’ risk of illness and death. Life expectancy itself has been linked to race and place via the interplay of scores of social and economic determinants—factors as disparate as housing stability, availability of early childhood education, exposure to pollution, availability of healthy and affordable food, witnessing or experiencing violence, job quality, and of course access to quality health care, among many others.

Without data-driven insights about how health inequities manifest and are produced at the population level and within varied geographies, it becomes impossible to design effective laws, policies and programs to eliminate them. Unfortunately, Missouri currently struggles with an underdeveloped and highly disjointed system for collecting, organizing, and reporting data on the health and well-being of its citizens. For example, many health datasets do not contain the necessary variables to disaggregate by race or other demographics, leaving analysts no choice but to use ecological analysis based on census tract data. Even when disaggregation is possible, analyses too often end with identifying race or other demographics as risk factors unto themselves instead of examining underlying drivers of risk, many of which stem from institutionalized discrimination. As a result of these weaknesses, public institutions, the health care system, and safety net service providers struggle to create policies and approaches that effectively reduce entrenched health inequities.

Through this project, MFH seeks to improve the quality and quantity of data on health equity available to stakeholders and spur improvements in the statewide data ecosystem. Creating a health equity scorecard is a pathway to accomplishing both objectives. Understanding that data needed to populate a scorecard may at first be difficult to assemble, we seek to create demand for that data and identify opportunities for developing innovative data projects to improve the quality and quantity of data over time. We anticipate a critical component of the background research will be defining the role state government should play in collecting and making data available to inform health equity policy and programming. Where possible, we are interested in learning about promising practices that could be adapted for Missouri. These may include those developed by public or private institutions in other states, at the federal level, or in other countries.

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](#).



Proposal Requirements

- Submission acknowledgment.** Complete and submit the [one-page acknowledgment form](#).
- Proposal narrative.** Address each of the sections below
 - **Organization name and primary contact information.**
 - **Approach to services.** Provide a description of your approach, including, but not limited to:
 - Defining the parameters of the background research and prioritizing key questions that will inform the vision for a health equity scorecard
 - Sources of information you will draw on to identify existing data assets and diagnose gaps; find and assess the utility of innovative and promising health equity data initiatives within or outside of Missouri
 - Sources of information you will draw on to develop use cases for the scorecard and identify stakeholders and potential collaborators
 - How you will analyze, organize, and present findings to ensure they are useful to the Foundation and informative for potential stakeholders
 - **Deliverables and proposed timeline.** Provide a work plan and timeline that identifies activities and deliverables for the research.
 - **Organization history and qualifications.** Describe your organization's capabilities as well as those of the team that will conduct this work, including any proposed subcontractors. Include bios of key personnel. In particular, please highlight experience and expertise in any or all of the following areas:
 - Knowledge of existing health surveillance data sources within and outside of the state
 - Experience advising public or private institutions on how to create or harmonize large data systems around health and the issues that affect health
 - Understanding of current best/promising practices in data ethics and how to bring an equity approach to collecting, managing, and analyzing data
 - **Examples of Past Work.** Provide a description of (and where possible sample deliverables) of 2-3 past projects that highlight your capabilities to undertake this work.
- Cost proposal.** Provide a detailed cost proposal and justification for professional services (hourly rate and number of hours), travel specifically related to the delivery of services, subcontractor fees (attach proposal or contract), and other direct costs related specifically to the delivery of services. Respondents should submit a cost proposal that aligns with the proposed activities and supports required deliverables. MFH reserves the right to negotiate proposed costs.

Note: Requested travel will be reimbursed for coach airfare booked within a reasonable timeframe, lodging, standard rental car or public transportation, meals and incidental expenses at a rate 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 MFH can contact to verify past work.
 - Completed [W-9 form](#)
 - Completed [Conflict of Interest Disclosure 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.

A respondent's submission of a proposal in no way guarantees procurement. MFH will not reimburse a respondent for the cost of developing or presenting a proposal in response to this RFP. The proposal will be considered confidential.

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

Contact Provisions

The agreement will 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](#).

Contact and Deadline

If you have questions please contact Katherine Fritz, Vice President of Learning and Research, at kfritz@mffh.org or (314) 295-0712. Proposals must be received by October 19, 2020, at midnight (Central Time).

For more information on the online submission process, [click here](#). If there are additional questions, please contact Wendy Rohrbach, Project Coordinator, at wrohrbach@mffh.org or (314) 345-5504.



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.

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.