



Missouri Foundation
for Health

a catalyst for change

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Understanding the Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Health Equity in Missouri

This request for applications invites organizations to apply for funds to conduct research on whether and how Medicaid expansion improves health equity for Missourians. In August 2020, Missouri became the 38th state to expand Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act. In July 2021, adults earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level will be eligible to enroll—expanding health care coverage to more than 200,000 Missourians.

Since the ACA became law, many studies have shown that Medicaid expansion generates a cascade of positive effects. These benefits begin with increasing health care coverage, move to increasing health care utilization and quality of care, and end with improvements in health outcomes. A large 2012 study comparing three states that substantially expanded adult Medicaid eligibility (New York, Maine, and Arizona) with neighboring states without expansions found a relative reduction of 6.1% in all-cause mortality. These reductions were especially strong among older adults, people of color, and residents of poorer counties.¹ Other studies have documented the economic benefits that accrue to health care providers where Medicaid has been expanded. These include reductions in uninsured hospital visits and uncompensated care costs.²

Key Application Dates	
Close Date:	February 15, 2021
Anticipated Award Notification:	March 2021

As part of the Foundation's ongoing work to expand access to health insurance coverage and strengthen the health care safety net, MFH seeks to fund one or more research projects that elucidate how Medicaid expansion contributes to greater health equity in Missouri, as well as any design or implementation challenges that inhibit it from doing so. Findings from this research may be used to inform the development of innovations in safety net insurance programs and other interventions to advance equitable health outcomes in Missouri.

¹Sommers et al. N Engl J Med 2012; 367:1025-1034 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMsa1202099 <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1202099>

²Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured June 2016 http://www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/wp-content/uploads/news-items/KFF_Effects-of-Medicaid-Expansion_June-2016.pdf





Projects may include primary or secondary research, or a combination. We welcome mixed-method and interdisciplinary research, where appropriate, to answer proposed research questions. Illustrative research topics include the following; however, we welcome a wide range of original research questions that make meaningful and novel contributions to the field:

- The impact of Medicaid expansion on enhancing equity in health care coverage, utilization of care, quality of care, health outcomes.
- The impact of Medicaid expansion on addressing provider shortages in rural and other underserved communities, including its role in improving the financial resilience of hospitals, community health centers and other providers.
- The role Medicaid expansion plays in catalyzing changes in how the safety net is structured or functions, and the impacts of those changes on health equity (changes may include, for example, discontinuation of programs that previously served those who will be covered by an expanded Medicaid program; conversion of free clinics to providers that accept Medicaid and other insurance payment, among others).
- The role of Medicaid expansion in disrupting pathways linking social and economic factors with inequitable health outcomes. Determinants of health inequity may include, but are not limited to, various aspects of economic precarity, discrimination/exclusion based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and disability, and access to care based on geography. We encourage an intersectional approach to examining social determinants of health.
- The impact of Medicaid expansion on mitigating the negative impacts of COVID-19, including, for example, access to and quality of care for people who are infected, health outcomes for those infected, safety net health care coverage for those who lost employer-based coverage, the impact of the epidemic on health care institutions in terms of uninsured hospital visits and uncompensated care.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be nonprofit or governmental entities and meet the general [MFH funding guidelines](#) available on the Foundation's website.

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

Applications must be received by February 15, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. (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

Projects are anticipated to be up to 36 months in duration though timelines should be appropriate to the proposed research questions and methods. 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 section below. The application narrative can be up to 15 pages, not including references, with at least 11-point font and one-inch margins.
 - Research plan.** Please describe the following:
 - a. Overarching goals and objectives of the research
 - i. Include primary and, if appropriate, secondary research questions to be answered.
 - b. Background/significance
 - i. Why the research is necessary (i.e. what new insight(s) will it add to the existing evidence base within Missouri and nationally).
 - ii. How the research is relevant to the Missouri context, and how the research will contribute toward improving health equity in the state.
 - c. Study Design
 - i. Overarching design of the study and rationale for choosing this design over alternatives
 - ii. Procedures for sampling/collecting primary data and/or securing access to secondary data sources; include sample size calculations, if appropriate
 - iii. Methods for analyzing data
 - d. Overview of plan for protecting human research participants and obtaining IRB approval
 - e. Plan for reporting and disseminating results of the research, ensuring results are made available to audiences of practitioners, policy makers, other researchers, and key stakeholders
 - f. Timeline for accomplishing the project appropriate to the research questions and methods. We anticipate timelines up to 36 months.



- **Organizational History and Qualifications.** Provide a summary of experience and qualifications of the organization's staff as well as any proposed subcontractors.
- **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.
- **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, 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 Katherine Fritz, Vice President of Learning and Research, at kfritz@mffh.org

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

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.