

a catalyst for change

Diverting to Care

The purpose of the Diverting to Care initiative is to promote, advance, and support community efforts geared toward minimizing the use of law enforcement in situations involving individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. Diverting individuals away from jails and prisons and toward more appropriate and culturally competent community-based behavioral health care is our focus.

Key Application Dates

Central

meeting:

Close Date:

application

Anticipated

Notification:

Award

Pre-

Call

August 31, 2021, noon

August 4, 2021,

https://mffh.zoom.

4ahKkTusPUt

December 2021

us/meeting/register/

10:00 a.m. Central

Register in advance for this

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This request for application (RFA) invites organizations in the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) service region to apply for funds to plan and develop or implement a community-based, multisector, collaborative program that aims to minimize the use of law enforcement in situations involving individuals with mental health and substance use disorders.

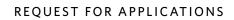
Missouri typically follows national patterns, with the justice system increasingly responding to individuals in crises and those with unmet health needs. Interviews with stakeholders across Missouri identified informal or nonexistent linkages between behavioral health and crisis response systems, limited state-level infrastructure, coordination or capacity, and geographical difference in readiness

to tackle the problem with most work occurring in urban areas. Additionally, while much of the related national and regional momentum has been focused on reforming prisons and addressing reentry, communities increasingly call for efforts to disrupt the flow of people into jails and prisons.

The Diverting to Care initiative specifically seeks to support efforts at the front end, specifically Intercepts 0 and 1, of <u>The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)</u> <u>SAMHSA</u> reducing the likelihood that people with mental health and substance use disorders will ever encounter law enforcement.

Program Description

Although momentum for change is building, communities across Missouri are at different points of readiness for diverting people away from the justice system and into appropriate services and support. Progress in providing behavioral health care instead of incarceration will happen at the community level and depends significantly on the community's existing infrastructure, knowledge, attitudes, collaboration, and resource allocation. MFH's approach will support community cooperation to increase awareness of diversion and to increase and improve service options that minimize law enforcement involvement with people with mental health and substance use disorders.





Organizations can apply for one of the following community-based grant categories (application links are provided below in the "How to Apply" section).

• Category 1: Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Planning

Within a local community, there may be various opinions about and approaches to addressing the needs of citizens with mental health and substance use disorders. Understanding that successful diversion efforts are built with community members providing input on the problems and potential solutions, activities in this category would engage key individuals in planning, preparing, and building support for activities aimed at changing or improving responses to people in crises and minimizing criminal justice involvement.

• Category 2: Strategy Implementation

There is growing awareness and momentum in many communities to increase access to services and divert those with mental health and substance use disorders issues away from the justice system. For communities that have engaged in strategic partnership development and collaborative planning around diversion as described above, funds can be requested to support implementation activities.

Additional Program Considerations

Applicants will be accountable to the community's identified needs. We seek applicants who clearly outline their plans for hearing from and reporting back to community members experiencing mental health, substance use, and justice involvement.

Applicants will take an active learning approach to the work. MFH is looking for applicants who plan to involve community members in each step of their work and create opportunities for all stakeholders to learn from each other. Applicants should document ideas for how community will shape the project's understanding of its success as well as how results are interpreted and used.

Applicants may also be required to participate in a Foundation-facilitated learning community with other organizations engaged in similar work. Grantees should anticipate sending two team members to St. Louis or mid-Missouri in order to participate in an annual meeting and should include travel and lodging in the submitted budget.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be nonprofit or governmental entities and meet the general <u>MFH funding guidelines</u> 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 12 p.m. Central on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Please plan accordingly and submit your application well before the deadline as MFH cannot accept late applications.

- Apply for Category 1 Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Planning here
- Apply for Category 2 Strategy Implementation here

Inquiries

If you have questions about the goals or content of this RFA please contact Marcel Scaife, Strategist Initiatives, at <u>mscaife@mffh.org</u> or (314) 345-5546. Questions received will be added to the <u>Frequently Asked Questions link</u> on our website.

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

About Missouri Foundation for Health

Missouri Foundation for Health is building a more equitable future through collaboration, convening, knowledge sharing, and strategic investment. Working in partnership with communities and nonprofits, MFH is transforming systems to eliminate inequities within all aspects of health and addressing the social and economic factors that shape health outcomes. To learn more please visit mffh.org.