



Missouri Foundation
for Health

Opportunity Fund

Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) invites organizations to submit concept papers for systems change projects that will positively impact the health of Missourians. We are interested in ideas that explore or implement community-driven ways to challenge and disrupt these systems that allow and perpetuate inequities in health status and outcomes.

MFH defines systems change as follows:

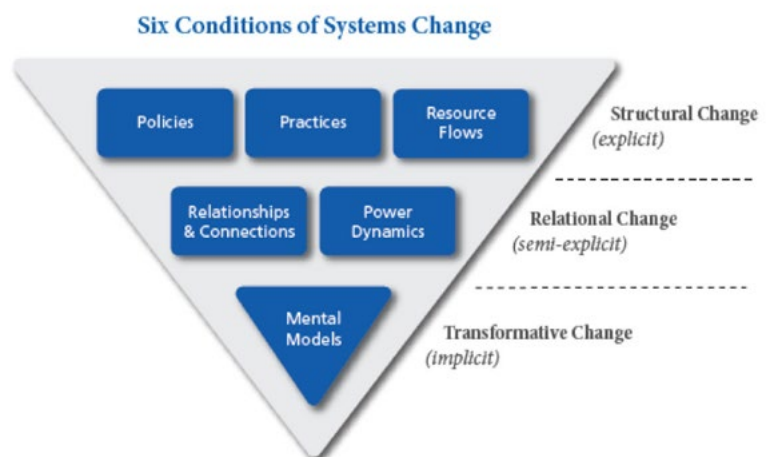
Systems change involves addressing the root causes that hold social problems in place. This intentional process focuses on transforming and disrupting the deeply embedded systems and structures that enable the status quo.

The figure below highlights some of the common components of systems that can be targeted by systems change work:

Key Application Dates	
Open Date	Thursday, February 2, 2023
Close Date	Thursday, March 23, 2023, at noon (CT)
Concept Papers will be reviewed and select applicants will be invited to submit full proposals in early June 2023.	



Figure 1. Six Conditions of Systems Change



John Kania, Mark Frammer, and Peter Senge 2018. The Waters of Systems Change. FSG. https://www.fsg.org/resource/water_of_systems_change/



Based on our experience with Opportunity Fund, successful projects often include one or more of the following elements:

- **Strategic:** Develops internal or sector-wide planning and preparation effort focused on systems change
- **Far-reaching:** Creates or builds on existing collaborative networks and has implications beyond a single organization's client base
- **Community-led:** Generates solutions that engage those negatively impacted by the given system
- **Connected:** Fits within the broader landscape of what the field is doing to address the systems-level issue
- **Responsive:** Addresses an issue that has recently surfaced in the environment with a systems approach
- **Innovative:** Tests unconventional approaches to disrupt systems

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 sponsor](#) (Additional information about your fiscal sponsor will be requested if your organization is asked to submit a full proposal).

Application Timeline

Concept Papers: Concept papers must be received by **Thursday, March 23, 2023**, at noon (CT). Please plan accordingly and submit your application well before the deadline, as MFH cannot accept late applications.

Full Proposal: MFH staff will review concept papers to determine if the organization will be invited to submit a full proposal based on fit with the Opportunity Fund and strategic priorities of the Foundation. Applicants will be notified of concept paper status in early June 2023. If an applicant is invited, they will have up to seven weeks from the date of invitation to submit a full proposal.

Award Notification(s): October - December 2023

How to Apply

To start a new concept paper application, [click here](#).

To return to a concept paper in progress, log into your [account](#).

Concept Paper Requirements

- **Application Acknowledgement.** Complete and submit the [one-page acknowledgement form](#).



- **Concept Paper Narrative.** With the concept paper, we invite you to paint the bigger picture of why, what, how and with whom your project will create systemic impact within the identified system while reducing inequities. In no more than two 1.5-spaced pages, please concisely consider the following: (*Note: If invited to submit a full proposal, additional details about the approach, major activities, timeline, organizational history, and partner roles will be requested.*)
 1. **What?** Provide a brief synopsis of the proposed project, the system that will be impacted, the systems approach, and how the affected population will be engaged in the project.
 2. **Why?** Why is this needed? How and why is the environment ready for this project? How does this project and timing connect with and fit into the current landscape?
 3. **To what end?** How does this idea challenge systemic inequities and create systems-level impact? Consider the root causes of the weaknesses/dysfunctions in the identified system, and what strategies or levers are needed to address and shift the patterns creating those root causes. Systems change can take shape at many different levels – [please see the conditions](#) referenced in the graphic above.
 4. **With whom?** Collaboration and partnerships at multiple levels are encouraged for systems level impact. Please provide a brief list of partners - if one or a few of these partnerships are central to the project, please describe your level of engagement with them, their level of commitment, and willingness to sign an MOU.
- **Concept Budget.** Please complete and submit the [concept paper budget](#) listing the estimated expenses for the project with a brief explanation (a more detailed budget will be required if a full proposal is requested). If your request is a multi-year project, please provide a multi-year estimated budget. We have approximately \$5M set aside for this round.
- **Annual audit report or IRS Form 990.** Most recent audit report or IRS Form 990.
- **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 the RFCP, please contact Ben Zeno, Senior Strategist – Initiatives, via email at bzeno@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 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.