



Missouri Foundation
for Health

a catalyst for change

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Connect, Create, Care: Supporting Rural Communities to Decriminalize Behavioral Health Crises



The Diverting to Care initiative aims to promote, advance, and support community efforts that provide person-centered support and resources for individuals experiencing a behavioral health emergency. Our focus is on diverting individuals away from interaction with law enforcement and toward more appropriate and culturally competent community-based behavioral health care.

This Request for Application (RFA) invites organizations located in rural communities within the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) [service region](#) to apply for funds to bring together a multi-sector, community collaborative to engage in activities that challenge community norms of using law enforcement to respond to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The goal of this funding is to support exploratory activities and efforts that focus on shifting a community's understanding of and response to behavioral health crisis away from arrest and toward connection to services or treatment.

This opportunity will provide support to approximately five rural community partnerships that must include a: 1) community-based organization, 2) behavioral health partner, 3) public health, hospital or physical health provider, and 4) police department, prosecutor's office, or county judge, who are all interested in working together in dynamic ways to address community conditions and drive sustainable improvements in community behavioral health. Inclusion of community members who are consumers of behavioral health services or the families of such consumers is expected. Additional cross-sector partners such as businesses, K-12 education institutions, universities, and others that are aligned with proposed efforts are encouraged. Any partner may serve as the lead applicant.

Key Application Dates

Open Date	March 1, 2023
Close Date	April 11, 2023
Pre-application Call	March 24, 2023, 9 a.m. Central via Zoom. RSVP at this link https://mffh.zoom.us/join/91751678666
Anticipated Award Notification	July 2023



Efforts supported under this funding opportunity **may** include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting and coordinating community conversations and listening sessions with community members impacted by mental illness and/or substance use
- Identifying and engaging additional partners interested in the topic
- Identifying and developing strategies to build community and social cohesion around the topic
- Heightening the awareness of behavioral health emergencies in communities and learning about law enforcement alternatives
- Convening partners and community members to better understand narratives around and biases related to behavioral health crisis in the community
- Collecting and analyzing data to help establish community baselines and reasonable improvement goals
- Exploring models for feasibility of replication in the community such as [Stepping Up](#), [Operation 2Save Lives](#), or other [Police-Mental Health Collaboration](#) models or promising practices

This funding is intended to help jumpstart communities in exploring, engaging around the topic of, and making plans for decriminalizing behavioral health crisis. Subsequent well-developed plans may be considered by MFH under a future funding opportunity.

Applicants should also outline how they will include and engage community members in this work, in addition to compensating them for their time and expertise.

Grantees will be required to participate in a Foundation-facilitated learning and reflection cohort with other communities/organizations funded as part of the RFA process. The purpose of the cohort is to provide a space for grantees to share resources, discuss promising approaches, and identify key lessons learned to foster ongoing improvement and adaptation. Grantees and their partner organizations should anticipate participating in four virtual meetings each year and an annual in-person convening.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be nonprofit or governmental entities and meet [MFH funding guidelines](#). Applicants may apply with a [fiscal sponsor](#). Applicants must be located in a rural county (defined in this opportunity as a county having a majority amount of census tracts identified as “rural,” “small town,” or “micropolitan”) within the [MFH service region](#) and present a proposal that includes a 1) community-based organization partner with experience in elevating community member’s voice, 2) behavioral health partner, 3) public health, hospital, or physical health partner, and 4) law enforcement or criminal legal partner working together.



How to Apply

Applications must be received by 12 p.m. Central on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Please plan accordingly as MFH cannot accept late applications.

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

To return to an application in progress, log in to your [Account](#).

Application Requirements

Projects are anticipated to be up to 24 months in duration. The learning cohort participation is expected for the entire 24 months. 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 10 pages and must be double-spaced with at least 11-point Arial or Times New Roman font and one-inch margins.
 - Community Characteristics.** Tell us about your community. What assets does your community possess and plan to build on to improve the way individuals in behavioral health crisis receive support?
 - Impact of Issue.** How has substance use and/or mental illness impacted your community? What data or stories do you already know? What information do you hope to learn with the help of this grant?
 - Project Goals and Timeline.** Describe the project's specific goals, activities, and timeline, as well as how you will know the project is successful. What do the community partners participating in this project hope can be accomplished through this work? How will funds be used to achieve the community partners' goals?
 - Organizational History and Qualifications.** Describe the applicant organization's capacity to lead a project of this scale and scope. Provide a summary of experience and qualifications of the project staff as well as any proposed subcontractors.
 - Partner History.** How have the identified partners worked together before? What roles will individuals or organizations take to hold the partnership together and move the work forward?
 - 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. 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. Budgets should include compensation for community members participating in the project as well as travel and accommodation expenses for project staff to attend 2 in-person convenings to be held in mid-Missouri.
 - • **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Letter of Commitment.** Include a signed MOA from each partner outlining roles and responsibilities between the applicant and partner organization(s) or a signed letter from each partner with a brief statement of their understanding of the topic and what they hope to accomplish through this funded planning partnership. A sample MOA is [available here](#).
 - **Financial documents.** Applicants must submit the following documents. If using a fiscal sponsor, financial documents for both the applicant and fiscal sponsor organization are required.
 - Audit report or IRS Form 990 completed less than 15 months prior to the date of application submission
 - Most recent annual accounting period's income statement and balance sheet
 - Current year's approved budget (including revenue and expense)
 - Current year's income statement and balance sheet prepared fewer than 75 days prior to the date of application
- Note:* If the applicant organization does not have either an annual audit report or IRS Form 990, provide explanation and one of 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.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure.** Complete and submit the [disclosure form](#). If using a fiscal sponsor, a disclosure form for both the applicant and fiscal sponsor organization are required.
 - • **Fiscal sponsor explanation and agreement (if applicable).** If using a [fiscal sponsor](#), provide an explanation as to why one is needed. In addition, a signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities between the applicant and fiscal sponsor must be submitted.



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 Katie Kaufmann, Senior Strategist-Initiatives, at kkaufmann@mffh.org or (314) 345-5536.

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.