



Missouri Foundation
for Health

a catalyst for change

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Asset-Building and Technical Expertise Consultants for MFH Firearm Injury and Death Prevention Grantees

The purpose of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to request statements of qualifications from consultants (organizations and individual contractors) who are interested in supporting Missouri Foundation for Health's firearm injury and death (FID) prevention grantees to build upon their existing assets through a variety of activities. This RFQ is open to nonprofits, universities, and independent contractors.

MFH's Firearm Injury and Death Prevention Approach

Firearm-related deaths and injuries, including homicides, suicides, and accidental shootings, have generally increased over the past few decades and are a predominant cause of injury and death in the United States. In 2017, MFH made a commitment to address this issue. Through our Firearm Violence and Prevention (FVP) initiative, MFH takes a holistic approach to addressing all types of firearm injury and death (e.g., community violence, suicide, unintentional, interpersonal). The Foundation's strategy is focused on strengthening a diverse network of stakeholders to engage and drive community-based firearm violence prevention efforts.

MFH's strategy also includes a focus on strengthening capacity, elevating resiliency, and bolstering networks of organizations engaging in firearm injury and death prevention (i.e., FID prevention organizations) as well as those working in areas or topics adjacent to the topic (e.g., behavioral health, intimate partner violence). The purpose of this approach is to support organizations' efforts to learn more about and be responsive to the communities they serve, build upon skills and knowledge to support effectiveness of efforts and their organization, further connection and collaboration with other organizations to leverage complementary resources and skills, and foster relationships as a means of social support for a topic that is often difficult to address. The ultimate goal of this work is to provide support and resources to organizations that will assist them in developing and implementing effective interventions and advocacy efforts to address aspects of firearm injury and death at the local and regional level.

In 2023, MFH anticipates releasing two funding opportunities to support organizations with varying levels of engagement in FID prevention activities. We anticipate that part of this support will include engaging qualified contractors to help organizations build upon a diversity of existing skillsets, knowledge bases, and capacities as they see fit.



- **FID Prevention Infrastructure and Support Grants:** For those organizations already engaged in local/regional efforts around various aspects of FID, funding will enable organizations to identify and define areas where they would like to build upon their skills, assets, and capacities, and focus on local systems-change needs (e.g., advocacy, organizational or collaborative sustainability, grassroots engagement). This funding will support and maintain the grantee's staffing and operational infrastructure, strengthen coordination, programmatic, and policy approaches, and enable these organizations to sustain momentum in the field.
- **Planning Grants:** For adjacent organizations who are just entering the field, several funding opportunities will be offered to support initial efforts to elevate the issue, form essential connections, and identify where their organization would be best poised to make a difference in the field. The intention of these grants is to meet organizations where they are in these efforts. For some communities across the state, firearm injury and death is just starting to emerge as a point of concern or interest.

Within these grant applications, organizations will be asked to identify existing strengths and assets as well as desired support for assistance related to asset building, strengthening network connections, learning, and other needs essential to eventually engaging in local FID-related systems-change efforts. They will be asked to budget for associated costs to contract services for expertise, coaching, and/or technical assistance.

In 2022, MFH released [Imagine, Build, and Respond: Supporting Communities to Examine and Explore Firearm Violence](#). The purpose of this opportunity was to provide support to communities interested in exploring and understanding firearm violence. These particular grants allow organizations to engage with community members and key stakeholders to learn about how the topic impacts communities and individuals in their area, assess potential community interest and momentum, build relationships, and to help communities and organizations identify potential next steps. Additional emerging technical assistance and support needs may be identified by applicants through this funding opportunity.

MFH Firearm Injury and Death Prevention Values and Principles

MFH's mission is to eliminate underlying causes of health inequities, transform systems, and enable individuals and communities to thrive. A key driver of MFH's work as an organization is to contribute toward an enabling environment for achieving health equity and target our resources to this end. In addition, specific to MFH's FID prevention efforts are several core principles that guide our work. These principles shape MFH's work in FID prevention, including how we partner with communities.

- **Systems change:** 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. We work to have a shared understanding of the ways in which policies, practices, relationships, resource flows, power dynamics, and mental models prevent and/or contribute to firearm injury and death and prioritize partnerships and investments that seek to disrupt these patterns.
- **Health and racial equity:** Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. In a racially equitable society, all people would have this opportunity regardless of their



racial identity. We intentionally reflect on, uplift, and challenge the historic and current practices, policies, systems, and narratives within systems that create inequitable opportunities, foster environments and circumstances that drive FID, and undermine the ability of marginalized/disenfranchised communities to determine solutions.

- **Centering communities:** From ideation to implementation, we prioritize the essential insights, lived experience, and expertise that local organizations and community members possess, and work collaboratively to craft and execute strategies that are responsive and accountable to impacted communities and the organizations representing them.
- **Addressing stigma:** We understand the impact of stigma in addressing firearm injury and death prevention and support partners in creating brave space to hold uncomfortable conversations and implement strategies to challenge stigma.
- **Humility, learning, and experimentation:** We recognize that our insights and understanding of the issue may be limited. We apply mechanisms to ensure we are constantly listening, learning, and adapting in partnership with organizations with deep ties to communities and promoting flexibility and experimentation for understanding and implementing solutions to complex problems.

Purpose of the Consultant RFQ

MFH is seeking responses to this RFQ to connect nonprofit organizations to consultants that can provide services and/or technical expertise that will support grantees in pursuing and implementing efforts relating to FID prevention. No awards will be made as a direct result of this RFQ. Responses will be catalogued by type of assistance and expertise that each respondent is offering to provide. A summary of the submitted RFQ responses and contact information will be linked in the two request for applications (RFAs) described above. Applicants to these RFAs will be encouraged to review this list and reach out to consultants in order to identify potential partners that will provide services and support to address their identified need(s). They will reach out directly to potential consultants that may match their identified needs. Upon mutual agreement of the nonprofit organization and potential consultant, a scope of services and budget for contracted services will be included in the community organization's MFH application. Selected consultants will receive compensation for services directly from these MFH grantees, not MFH. Applications will be reviewed through the standard MFH grant process. MFH may schedule a follow-up meeting with respondents to further clarify information and/or understand respondent's values, working style, and experience.

MFH is seeking to populate the reference list with a broad and diverse array of consultants and technical experts. Consultants should be able to demonstrate experience and expertise working with community organizations. Contracted services provided will be directly related to an organization's proposed FID prevention efforts. MFH is interested in hearing from organizations that have relevant expertise, regardless of their experience specifically related to firearm injury and death prevention.

The following are examples of potential focus areas for which MFH is seeking consultants, but it should not be taken as an all-inclusive list. These focus areas were informed by findings from a landscape analysis and needs assessment of organizations interested in engaging in FID prevention, as well as through conversations with existing grantees and national partners.



General Support	Specific to Firearm Injury and Death Prevention
Program/project planning	FID prevention strategy/program development, including best practices
Storytelling and/or strategic communications	Community Violence Interventions (CVI), including technical support for operations and management of such programs
Traditional and social media outreach	Firearm suicide prevention approaches
Community engagement methods and/or facilitating community conversations	Unintentional/accidental firearm injuries and death efforts
Community and partnership assessments (needs, assets, readiness)	Identifying and addressing root causes of FID and/or trauma
Collaboration, power sharing, and network building	Strategic communications, framing, and messaging specific to firearms (e.g., ownership, safe storage, gun safety) and FID prevention activities and solutions
Healing/self care	Advocacy and grassroots organizing; advocate and champion building
Convening and facilitation	Firearm-related policies (research relating to, or in the development, and/or implementation)
Engaging diverse sectors/partners	Policymaker education and engagement
Learning and evaluation	Understanding and engaging gun owners
Data analysis and/or management	Engaging and working with populations with lived experiences
Sustainability planning	Research and/or data efforts relating to firearm injury and death prevention
Identifying and pursuing diverse funding streams	Facilitating collaborations with stakeholders who are working to address firearm injury and death
Addressing trauma in communities	Other expertise relating to the prevention of firearm injury and death
Adaptive leadership	Other expertise relating to the prevention of firearm injury and death
Working with communities to center and advance racial and health equity	
Fostering and facilitating systems thinking	



Submission Requirements

Responses to the following will be submitted through an online form. To submit a response, click [here](#). Please see the form below for a list of questions to assist you in pulling together the required information. Proposals must be received by 12 pm Central on Monday, April 17, 2023.

All responses must be submitted through the [online form](#).

Statement of Qualifications.

Organizational Information

- Provide basic information such as the organization's name, address, email, phone number, name and title of a contact person, and information on location on staff (if out of state organization, include any information on Missouri-located staff. Missouri staff is not a requirement, though travel to Missouri may be a requirement of some applicants.)
- Indicate who will be the primary contact for nonprofit organizations to connect with when they are developing a full proposal for MFH (include contact information for this individual).

Statement of Qualifications

- **Organizational Background:** Provide a brief background on the organization or firm or independent contractor that is responding to this RFQ as it relates to asset-building services and/or FID prevention. Include any information on if the organization is minority-owned or represented in leadership, if applicable (up to 100 words).
- **Experience with Community Organizations:** Description of experience working with community organizations (up to 150 words each).
 - Briefly describe general philosophy/core values for working with community organizations. What mindsets and values do you find most important for building and developing relationships with community members throughout the duration of a project? How do those values and mindsets show up in your work with community organizations?
 - Describe any experience working in Missouri or with Missouri-based organizations (preferred, but not required).
- **Consultant Summaries:** Provide brief bios and qualifications for each individual that may be involved in providing services. The primary contact previously identified should provide a brief statement on how their personal identities inform their understanding of and approach to thinking about the issue of FID and working with community organizations in a consulting capacity.



- **Asset-Building Services and/or Technical Expertise:** Considering the asset building and technical expertise areas identified in the table on pages 4 & 5 and any other key relevant expertise your organization may possess, please describe your potential services. For General Focus Areas, you may choose up to three categories as relevant. You or your organization may work in and/or have expertise in more than three categories, however you will be limited to up to three categories for this RFQ.
 - **General Focus Areas:** (select up to three if applicable) and then briefly describe (up to 150 words).
 - i. Intervention/Program Strategy
 - ii. Prevention and/or Root Causes Research
 - iii. Strategic Communication
 - iv. Policy/Advocacy
 - v. Impacted Populations
 - vi. Facilitation Support
 - vii. Collaboration/Community Engagement
 - viii. Evaluation and Learning
 - ix. Sustainability and Fundraising
 - x. Other
 - **FID Prevention Expertise**
 - i. Yes/no
 - ii. If yes, briefly describe your expertise and/or engagement in FID (e.g., activities, communities served) (up to 100 words)
- **Additional Information:** Include anything that you would like a potential grantee partner to know about you or your organization, the expertise you possess, and/or how you work with community-based organizations (up to 150 words).

○ Supporting Documentation

- A. Upload a list of up to three recent partnerships and/or clients that specifically related to the identified areas in asset-building services and/or technical expertise, complete with contact information.
- B. Upload a list of two or three project summaries that highlight experience in areas outlined in the RFQ (with links if applicable). This can include written documentation, images, video, or audio recordings.



Review and Evaluation

Responses will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of this RFQ. A respondent's submission in no way guarantees procurement by Missouri Foundation for Health. MFH will not reimburse a respondent for the cost of developing or submitting a response to this RFQ. MFH reserves the right to request additional information and to conduct discussions with respondents to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. The response will be considered confidential.

Contact and Deadline

If you have questions please contact Jessi LaRose, Director of Strategic Initiatives, at jarose@mffh.org. Proposals must be received by 12 pm Central on Monday, April 17, 2023.

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. Applicants will be required to affirm that the applicant 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 concerning access to services.

MFH Values and Critical Concerns

MFH is committed to engaging partners who share and demonstrate our values of equity, integrity, humility, and commitment. In addition, MFH has identified advancing equity and inclusion, promoting human dignity, and making environmentally conscious decisions as critical concerns. The organization will be asked to affirm that:

- Employment practices of your organization ensure that there is no discrimination in hiring and promotion practices. This includes discrimination based on gender, age, race, disability, veteran status, religious affiliation, or sexual identification.
- No part of your organization's operations or communication with the public discriminate against any individual or group based upon any of the factors listed above.
- Any violation of this provision shall be considered a violation of the 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.



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.