



Missouri Foundation  
for Health

*a catalyst for change*

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## Firearm Injury and Death Prevention-Planning Grants

This request for applications (RFA) invites organizations to apply for funds to address firearm injury and death (FID). Understanding that successful prevention activities are built with community members providing input on the problems and potential solutions, the purpose of this funding is to support organizations to engage key individuals in planning, preparing, and building support for these efforts. Organizations addressing any type of firearm injury and death prevention are welcomed to apply and are considered under MFH's Firearm Violence Prevention (FVP) initiative. MFH intends to prioritize applications that will work to engage populations that have been minimally involved in or served by firearm injury and death prevention efforts.

### **MFH's Firearm Injury and Death Prevention Strategy**

Firearm-related deaths and injuries, including homicides, suicides, assaults, 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 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.

In its many forms, firearm injury and death impacts people of all ages and backgrounds across Missouri. However, communities possess the voice and power to address these issues in lasting ways that align with the needs and values of their region. Despite this potential, most Missouri communities have not yet been highly engaged in efforts to better understand the impact of and solutions to firearm injury and death. MFH's strategy 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.

## **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, while promoting flexibility and experimentation for understanding and implementing solutions to complex problems.

In response to this RFA, applicants should highlight how these principles were considered.



## Funding Opportunity Overview

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

- Identifying and engaging key partners and people (e.g., community members) interested in the topic area
- Supporting opportunities to build knowledge and awareness among key players
- Implementing planning activities to better understand the impact of FID on the community and for identifying potential solutions and next steps
- Engaging in strategic planning with community
- Developing and/or maintaining community collaborations and/or coalitions to address FID
- Supporting a wide range of asset and capacity building and organizational resiliency activities to assist organizations and communities in their efforts to begin to address FID
- Identifying and designing mechanisms to engage and center community when developing interventions and promote a culture of power sharing with those most impacted by the topic area
- Informing future FID efforts with the learnings from these projects Designing communication strategies and approaches

Potential indicators of success at the end of the planning period may include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of systems and conditions holding issues perpetuating FID in place and potential mechanisms to drive change
- Development of trust and understanding between community organizations
- Increased ability to build/share power with partners and community members
- Understanding of root causes and potential solutions
- Strengthened networks/collaborations (aligned vision, mission, potential solutions)
- Increased comfort, capacity, and skills in discussing and addressing issue
- Development of a shared vision of success among engaged groups and articulation of indicators of success
- Development of a strategic plan



## Asset-Building and Technical Expertise Consultants

In 2023, MFH collected statements of qualifications (RFQ) from consultants (organizations and individual contractors) who are interested in supporting MFH's firearm injury and death prevention grantees to build upon their existing assets through a variety of activities. Responses to the RFQ, including information on specific services and areas of technical expertise, and experience working with community organizations can be found [here](#). Applicants for this RFA are encouraged to reflect on their proposed planning efforts and collaborations to identify any potential asset-building and/or technical expertise they may want to engage. MFH staff are available to provide guidance in identifying potential topic area and needs for outside consultation.

Applicants are encouraged to review the RFQ list and reach out to consultants to identify potential partners to provide services and support to address their identified need(s). Applicants are not limited to those contractors on the RFQ list and may use other consultants with whom they may already have a relationship. Applicants will reach out directly to potential consultants. Upon mutual agreement of the applicant and the potential consultant(s), a scope of services and budget for contracted services will be included in the community organization's MFH FID-prevention grant application. MFH staff are available to provide guidance to applicants in vetting potential consultants identified through the RFQ process.

## General Requirements

To apply for planning funds, organizations must demonstrate an established commitment to addressing FID prevention within their community. Organizations should be able to demonstrate some early engagement in activities to understand the issue and have obtained some level of buy-in from partners and community members. Organizations who cannot demonstrate this, may consider applying for MFH's [Imagine, Build, and Respond: Supporting Communities to Examine and Explore Firearm Violence](#) funding opportunity. The purpose of this opportunity is to provide support to communities interested in exploring and understanding the issue. Additional funding opportunities will be made available in 2023 and beyond to support existing FID prevention-aligned organizations (i.e., FID Prevention Infrastructure and Support Grants) that possess extensive experience, demonstrated success, and existing infrastructure and capacity in addressing firearm injury and death in their community.

- MFH is looking to support efforts that embody MFH's FID prevention principles. An ideal applicant operates with humility and through a lens of health and racial equity. MFH expects applicants to take the experiences of partners and community members into consideration for the development of sustainable FID interventions in culturally responsive ways. Applicants should consider how efforts will work to reduce stigma around firearms and how FID impacts Missourians and their respective communities.
- Preference will be given to applications that propose to engage populations that have not been or minimally involved in or served by firearm injury and death prevention efforts. This includes efforts to address different aspects of firearm injury and death in geographies and/or with populations that have historically been marginally engaged. For example, but not limited to, addressing community violence in rural areas, firearm-related domestic violence efforts, understanding impacts of FID on immigrant populations, or addressing firearm suicide prevention in Black or Latino populations.



- Applicants will take an active learning approach to their work. MFH is looking for applicants who plan to involve community members in each step of their work and create opportunities for all partners to learn from each other. Applicants should document ideas for how community will shape the project's understanding of its success.
- Applicants may also be required to participate in Foundation-facilitated learning and/or networking opportunities. This may include activities to support grantees in identifying, understanding, and engaging a variety of systems that may be reinforcing current conditions or hindering progress to addressing FID in communities and what potential opportunities for change exist. Grantees will be active partners in shaping priorities and activities to identify what is or is not working and how FID principles contribute to systems change. MFH may engage one or more contractors to support these efforts. Applicants should include staff time and in-state travel to St. Louis or mid-Missouri (up to twice a year) to engage in these opportunities.
- Applicants should identify capacity and asset building, training, organizational resiliency, network strengthening, learning, and/or local systems-change needs and budget for any associated costs to address these needs (e.g., contracted services for expertise, coaching, and/or technical assistance).
- Multi-sectoral partnerships are strongly encouraged for this work and are important in identifying and implementing organizational, community, and systems-level changes in mental models, practices, and policies. Applicants should consider how they will work to establish and/or foster trust across partners and integrate efforts to share power in decision making with key partners and community members.
- Efforts that identify and address root causes of firearm injury and death (e.g., education, employment, poverty) are encouraged.

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be nonprofit or governmental entities and meet [MFH funding guidelines](#) available on the Foundation's website. Applicants may apply with a [fiscal sponsor](#).

This funding opportunity is intended for organizations that wish to engage in FVP planning activities. Prior receipt of MFH pre-planning funds is not a requirement to apply for this funding opportunity

## How to Apply

Organizations interested in applying for planning funds must schedule an initial call with MFH staff to discuss readiness, needs, and potential fit for MFH's FID related funding opportunities. **Contact Brian Washington, Strategist-Initiatives, at [bwashington@mffh.org](mailto:bwashington@mffh.org) to schedule a conversation.**



Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

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. Award amounts for individual projects will vary, however MFH has allocated \$1.25M to this funding opportunity and anticipates funding approximately 3-5 applications. 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 eight pages and must be double-spaced with at least 11-point Arial or Times New Roman font and one-inch margins.
  1. Briefly describe the need to address firearm injury and death in the community. Why is this important to your community? Include any information on relevant community stories, events, collaborations, programmatic efforts, or other happenings that may be driving interest and/or the need to address FID.
  2. Explain any previous or current work by your organization and/or community to understand and/or address firearm injury and death. What, if anything, has your organization and partners learned from this work that will inform your proposed effort?
  3. How might the MFH principles listed on page 2 show up in your proposed efforts? What challenges or tensions might exist in your community, organization, or amongst partners in enacting one or more of these principles?
  4. What new and/or existing community partners and members do you anticipate engaging in your efforts? How will they be engaged? Describe any previous engagement of partners around FID previously if applicable.
  5. How will your organization work to center community(ies) in your efforts (including those with lived experience)? How will your organization work to engage community(ies) and develop strategies to share power in understanding the issue and identifying solutions?
  6. What challenges do you anticipate when engaging in this work? How do you anticipate minimizing or addressing these challenges?
  7. Describe the project's specific goals, activities, and timeline, as well as how you will know the project is successful.
  8. Provide a summary of organization history and experience and qualifications of the staff as well as any proposed subcontractors.
  9. 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 and partners participating in the project as well as staff time and in-state travel to St. Louis or mid-Missouri (up to twice a year) to engage in learning and/or networking opportunities.
- **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 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.
- **Conflicts 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 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 Brian Washington, Strategist-Initiatives, at [bwashington@mffh.org](mailto:bwashington@mffh.org) or (314) 345-5578.

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](mailto: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](http://mffh.org).