

## **Request for Proposals: Funding Opportunities, Mental Health in Oregon**

### **Objective**

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) seeks a contractor to assist the foundation in understanding the funding landscape and opportunities to support the mental health of Oregon children and families, including promising practices, gaps, and culturally specific needs. The foundation is in the early stages of exploring strategies to support mental health, and this research will help OCF define and frame the issue, as well as identify possible roles for philanthropy and partnership. OCF also understands that answers to the research questions will differ by community and recognizes the need to take a culturally specific and linguistically appropriate approach to both the research and resulting strategies.

### **Research Questions**

The contractor's work will be guided by the following research questions. These reflect a need to both understand the current mental health landscape for children and families as well as where philanthropy, and specifically OCF, can best contribute. Research should take a statewide focus, place the opportunities and challenges into a broader national context, and identify key areas for philanthropic response.

1. What is the broad mental health context in the state of Oregon? Who is the current system serving, and where are the gaps? How does Oregon compare to other states?
2. What are some of the primary challenges in the current mental health system? What are some of the key barriers and opportunities to increase mental health provision? How has the COVID-19 pandemic perpetuated and/or exacerbated these?
3. What does existing data say about culturally specific and linguistically appropriate mental health availability in the state of Oregon? How are mental health needs, availability, or conceptions similar or different among BIPOC populations?
4. How does mental health availability differ statewide, particularly between rural and urban communities in Oregon?
5. What does the mental health funding landscape look like both in and outside of Oregon? Who is doing what, where?
6. How are other foundations both in and outside of Oregon working to support mental health? What are some specific examples of what they have done?
7. What are the opportunities for funding? What is an effective role for philanthropy? What would meaningful funding look like?
8. What are the top 3-5 recommended paths forward for OCF leaders to consider around mental health funding? How might this complement OCF's work with housing stability, wildfire response, opportunity gap, and/or children and families?

### **Project Methodology**

The contractor will need to employ a variety of research methods as appropriate that may

include a literature scan; document or policy review; and/or interviews with stakeholders in government, mental health, the community, and the philanthropy landscape. Any methods employed should be designed and implemented commensurate with the values underlying the Equitable Evaluation Framework™ <https://www.equitableeval.org/framework>, including striving for multicultural validity, centering lived experience, and orienting toward participant ownership.

### **Deliverables**

- Regular check-ins with OCF staff to facilitate learning as research is being conducted
- Written final report (inclusive of an executive summary), with answers to the above questions and links to websites and reports with more information
- Up to three verbal presentations of final report, not including draft version

### **Timeline**

By 5 pm on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Proposals Due

By October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: Selection of Contractor

October 2021 – March 2022: Conduct Research

By end of March 2022 : Draft report, presented in writing and verbally

April 2022: Final report, presented in writing and verbally

### **Budget**

OCF has up to \$30,000 allocated for this project.

### **Desired Qualifications**

Competitive applicants should possess the following qualifications:

- Familiarity with mental health issues and public health systems in Oregon, including the research already available on this topic
- Experience conducting equity-focused, culturally specific and linguistically appropriate research
- Experience with literature review and synthesis
- Experience with qualitative methodologies including interviews
- Experience analyzing and synthesizing information to create actionable findings and recommendations
- Experience sharing findings and recommendations in writing and verbally to a variety of audiences

### **Proposal Instructions and Contractor selection process**

Interested contractors should submit proposals to Kimberlee Salmond

(ksalmond@oregoncf.org) no later than **5 pm Pacific time September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

Proposals should be brief (no more than 10 pages, excluding attachments) and should include the following:

- A brief overview of the contractor's proposed project plan and timeline, including strategies and methods for addressing research questions and contract deliverables, including doing so in a remote environment as deemed necessary due to the coronavirus pandemic
- A brief overview of the contractor's qualifications and experience conducting

similar projects, including experience conducting equity-focused, culturally specific and linguistically appropriate research.

- A list of at least three references for similar projects (not included in page limit)
- A budget (not included in page limit)
- A writing sample that demonstrates ability to communicate findings and/or recommendations (not included in page limit)
- Resume or curriculum vitae (not included in page limit)
- Any questions regarding this proposal should be directed to Kimberlee Salmond ([ksalmond@oregoncf.org](mailto:ksalmond@oregoncf.org)).