

Request for Ideas: Healthy People & Communities

Overview & Purpose

The Richard King Mellon Foundation requests ideas for funding consideration that are aligned with the newly launched 2021-2030 Strategic Plan for Health & Well-Being.

Our aspiration is that everyone in Allegheny and Westmoreland County, particularly the most vulnerable, has the opportunity to live a healthy life. Unfortunately, many individuals in our region are unable to do so due to conditions in their communities, a lack of integration across sectors, and differences in the availability of quality supports and services.

To address this need, the Foundation seeks to seed new ideas and scale promising ones that aim to support the development of *healthy people* and *healthy communities*.

Who are *healthy people*?

Healthy people are not merely free of disease or sickness, but also thrive physically, socially and emotionally. A person can achieve health not only through access to health care and effective treatment, but also through opportunities for prevention and health promotion that encourage healthy behaviors and reduce risks.

What are *healthy communities*?

Healthy communities have conditions that allow for individuals to achieve their full health and well-being potential and have supports in place to address root causes of inequities. People living in healthy communities are more likely to have better health outcomes and live a healthier, happier life.

There are many aspects of health and well-being that need to be addressed in order to support the development of healthy people and healthy communities. The Richard King Mellon Foundation has identified seven priorities, which are detailed in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1.

Healthy People Priorities <i>Improve individual health status and health services related to...</i>	
Chronic Conditions	Physical conditions that last one or more year and require ongoing medical attention and/or limit activities of daily living.
Mental & Behavioral Health	Emotional, psychological, and social well-being, as well as actions that impact our health, such as substance use, drinking, and smoking.
Maternal & Child Health	Health and well-being of mothers, infants, and children.

Table 2.

Healthy Communities Priorities <i>Improve community conditions and social services related to...</i>	
Healthy Eating	Opportunities for individuals to engage in healthy eating, regardless of geographic location or economic circumstances.
Public Places & Open Spaces	Parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, and open spaces for individuals to engage in physical activity and other health promotion activities.
Safe & Stable Homes	Homes that are safe, affordable, and free of violence.
Clean Environments	Indoor and outdoor environments that are free of toxins, allergens, and pollutants.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation has identified five approaches that, if deployed in service of the priorities above, have the opportunity to result in positive outcomes for individuals and communities.

Table 3.

Healthy People & Communities Approaches	
Support Systems Change	Collaborative efforts to connect programs, services, and supports across sectors and systems through efforts such as shared decision-making, care coordination, data and information sharing, public-private partnerships, and more.
Improve Access	Efforts to increase individuals’ ability to obtain high-quality healthcare, services, and supports.
Strengthen Skills & Capacities	Building knowledge, competencies, skills, assets, and resources required to provide quality care and services through efforts such as growing evaluative capabilities, partnership building, fostering diverse leadership, and more.
Expand Prevention Efforts	Efforts that focus on avoiding a negative outcome before it occurs through direct intervention or prevention-focused programs, services, and supports.
Support Education & Empowerment	Expanding knowledge and understanding of health risks and how to treat or control health conditions, shift attitudes and beliefs, and modify behavior so that individuals can gain greater control over decisions and actions affecting their health.

Through this RFI, the Richard King Mellon Foundation seeks ideas that deploy one or more of the approaches in Table 3 to achieve positive outcomes associated with one or more priority in Tables 1 and 2.

Examples of ideas that will be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A project that *expands prevention efforts* focused on the avoidance of evictions and the maintenance of *safe & stable homes*.
- A collaborative effort that *supports system change* by integrating private sector-developed technology into healthcare to improve management of *chronic conditions*.
- An initiative that *improves access* to services aimed at eliminating allergens and other toxic matter in the home that stand in the way of *clean environments*.
- An effort that strengthens *skills & capacities* of providers to ensure culturally relevant *mental & behavioral health services*.

Guidelines

The Richard King Mellon Foundation invites nonprofit, public and private sector organizations to submit bold and novel ideas to the Healthy People & Communities RFI. The Foundation expects between \$50,000-\$250,000 will be available per idea. However, if an idea is truly exceptional, the Foundation may consider providing more than \$250,000.

Ideas that are considered for potential funding must have the following characteristics:

- Aligned with at least one Priority, as detailed in Tables 1 and 2.
- Currently in one of the two following Stages:
 - Planning and Innovation: These submissions are focused on experimentation and the development of new ideas. Recipients might describe activities such as piloting minimally viable products/services or completing a feasibility study. Any evaluation activities should focus on understanding successes, challenges, and future possibilities resulting from the initial project.
 - Scaling-Up: Expanding the reach of a promising model or project with a track record of successful implementation.
- Activities described can be executed in 6-18 months.

Priority consideration will be given to ideas with one or more of the following characteristics:

- Aim to break down barriers between the health and human service sectors.
- Utilize technology to improve individual or community health.
- Serve populations in urban and/or rural communities that are currently experiencing poverty or have historically encountered systemic barriers to health and well-being.

RFI Submission Requirements

The Foundation will accept ideas via our RFI Submission Form found at www.rkmf.org/pages/apply.

Respondents are asked to provide contact information and other basic project details, alongside an Executive Summary and a Logic Model.

The Executive Summary should include the following information:

- The Priority or Priorities where the project aims to positively impact outcomes (see Table 1 and 2)
- The Approach or Approaches that the project will deploy (see Table 3)
- Explanation of challenge or need that the project will address
- Description of the population that will be served
- Overview of proposed activities
- Intended impact

The Logic Model should be completed using the template provided in the RFI Submission Form.

Review Process and Timeline

RFI Submissions will be reviewed and select respondents will be invited to submit a full proposal for funding consideration.

Due to the anticipated interest in this RFI, Submissions will be reviewed, invited for full proposal, and awarded in two rounds. RFI Submissions received prior to February 26 will be considered in Round 1. Submissions received after February 26 and before the due date of July 16 will be reviewed in Round 2.

The full timeline associated with each round is described in Table 4.

Table 4.

Round 1 January–June 2021	January 27	RFI open for submissions
	February 26	RFI Submissions due
	March 12	Select respondents invited to submit full proposals
	April 26	Full proposals due
	June	Awards finalized and announced

Round 2 February–December 2021	February 27	RFI open for submissions
	July 16	RFI Submissions due
	August 20	Select respondents invited to submit full proposals
	October 1	Full proposals due
	December	Awards finalized and announced

What We Will Not Fund

The Foundation will not consider funding any of the following items through this RFI process:

- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Advocacy, political causes or events
- Existing deficits or retroactive funding
- Event sponsorships

Questions

If you have any questions, contact us at rkmf@rkmf.org. Please note that we cannot provide input on ideas prior to their submission.