



FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT
Reliable Flexible Funding for Mental Health and Well-Being
Request for Proposal
Monday, October 16, 2023

GRANT INITIATIVE: RELIABLE FLEXIBLE FUNDING

The Hogg Foundation believes that mental health is not solely an individual responsibility but is a product of community conditions. The places where people live, learn, work, play, and pray can have a significant impact on improving mental health.

Through this grant initiative, the foundation intends to invest \$5 million over five years, awarding \$1,000,000 per year. The award amounts grant partners will receive will vary, and will range from \$25,000-\$250,000 equally distributed over five years.

This funding opportunity aims to provide financial support to nonprofit organizations, particularly those led by and serving members of historically excluded groups. The goal is to assist these organizations in addressing disparities in mental health outcomes and philanthropic funding within marginalized communities. There is no requirement for a special project or new initiative. Flexible funding is intended to strengthen these organizations as they sustain, deepen, or expand their operations. By supporting the sustainability of mission-aligned organizations, the foundation hopes to foster long-term improvements in mental health outcomes for the communities served.

KEY DATES

RFP Announced & Application Opens:	Monday, October 16, 2023
Zoom Teleconference Question Submission Deadline:	5:00 pm CST, Friday, October 20, 2023 Email questions to hogg-grants@austin.utexas.edu .
Zoom Teleconference Registration Deadline:	Midnight CST, Friday, October 20, 2023 Register for the teleconference at https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYoNHQRT2qaF1FY
RFP Informational Zoom Teleconference:	Webinar: 3:00-4:00 pm CST, Monday, October 23, 2023 Participation is optional but encouraged. A recording will be available on the Reliable Flexible Funding web page https://hogg.utexas.edu/rff .
Complimentary Grant Writing Coaching Assistance on Applications Available (Optional):	Wednesday, November 1– Friday, January 5, 2024, limited to first 80 registrants, first come; first served. Please register at https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3l7VbxaIZainAdU .
Proposal Submission:	The foundation uses the Fluxx grants management system. Applicants sign up in advance for an account to submit proposals at https://hogg.fluxx.io/ by the deadline indicated.
Fluxx Registration Deadline:	Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Proposals Due:	Midnight Central Standard Time (CST), Friday, January 12, 2024
Awardees Notified:	Late February 2024
Grant Agreements Signed:	Late March 2024
Grant Period Begins:	Wednesday, May 1, 2024
Key Contact:	hogg-grants@austin.utexas.edu

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Initiative Website: [Grant opportunity webpage](#)
- [Applicant Resource Page](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions: A comprehensive listing of answers to commonly asked questions can be found on our [FAQ page](#).
- [About the Hogg Foundation - YouTube](#)

GUIDELINES

Benefits For Organizations Selected

- A multi-year, flexible funding grant;
- An award that will range from \$5,000-\$50,000 annually, distributed over five years and limited to a maximum of 30 percent of the organization’s current operating budget; and
- Optional participation in learning opportunities including sharing best practices, training, and mentorship for emerging leaders to inform future work and the broader field.

Expectations of Organizations Selected

- Attend onboarding/kick-off and annual partner convenings.
- Report annually on the indicators of success outlined in their application. Requirements and due dates will be clearly stated in the statement of agreement (grant contract) between the grant partner and the foundation and agreed upon prior to the beginning of the grant term.

Organization Eligibility Criteria

Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) nonprofit, community-based organizations or collaboratives including mental health organizations; faith-based/religious entities; public libraries; and educational institutions, including school districts, colleges, and universities. Units or programs within nonprofits, governmental entities, or higher education institutions whose programs address mental health and well-being with an annual budget of \$15,000-\$250,000 may also apply.

1. Applicants must be Texas based or have offices, chapters, or affiliates in Texas. Proposals submitted as a collaborative project between multiple entities are welcome, but the lead applicant (fiscal agent) must be based in Texas and the role of each entity must be clearly defined in the proposal.
2. Applicants have an annual operating budget of \$15,000-\$250,000.

NOTE: If the applicant does not have a current 501(c)(3) status, they may still apply for funding by partnering with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to serve as the fiscal agent and manage the fiscal responsibilities and fiscal requirements of the grant. If you intend to apply with a fiscal agent, please add the organization's name, address, city, state, postal code and fiscal agent contact person's name, email and phone to your application.

Informational Webinar and FAQ Page (Optional)

The Zoom teleconference for potential applicants will be held **3:00 - 4:00 pm CST, Monday, October 23, 2023**. Please note that participation in the teleconference is optional and will have no bearing on the award selection process. During the teleconference, foundation staff will provide an overview of the funding opportunity and respond to questions received in advance. Expert grant coaches will also be introduced and provide an overview of how to sign up for the optional proposal writing support. If there is time remaining, we will open the teleconference for a live question and answer session. Register for the teleconference at https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYoNHQRT2qaF1FY.

Please send questions for the foundation to address during the Zoom teleconference via email to hogg-grants@austin.utexas.edu by **5:00 pm CST, Friday, October 20, 2023**.

All questions addressed during the teleconference will be added to the frequently asked questions (FAQ) section on the initiative page of the Hogg Foundation website by Friday, October 27, 2023. If you are unable to attend, you may access the recording of the zoom conference on our initiative page.

Grant Coaching (Optional)

The foundation is excited to offer applicants free grant coaching support in developing proposals for this funding opportunity. The applicants will be offered up to 1.5 hours of proposal development feedback and coaching provided by expert grant writers, free of charge.

- Coaching sessions are limited to the first 80 requests.
- Sign up here to ensure availability and secure your session: https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3l7VbxalZainAdU.

Please note that participation in the coaching sessions is optional and will not be included in criteria of the award selection process. Organizations may submit an application with or without participating in the grant coaching support.

RFP Review Process

The foundation will use an internal committee to review and choose the Reliable Flexible Funding grant partners. The committee will use a rating instrument and will assess each application based on its merit. Additional consideration will be given to organizations serving communities with a [Social Vulnerability Index](#) equal or greater than the 2020 Texas Statewide Overall SVI score of 0.7668.

Successful proposals will include:

1. Well-defined objectives to utilize the funding which supports meaningful outcomes;
2. Reasonable outcomes that indicate success and maximize the outcome of the grant funding;
Some examples of possible outcomes include but are not limited to:
 - a. Increased financial stability and operations;
 - b. Human resource improvements and capacity-building;
 - c. Enhanced programming or increased service capacity;
 - d. Increased community engagement and outreach;
 - e. Increased community mobilization, education, or awareness; and
 - f. Time for strategic planning, growth, and innovation.
3. Information showing that the proposed community served is under-resourced;
4. How the organization's staff composition is a strong representation of the community it serves;
5. How the organization demonstrates meaningful connections with the communities it serves;
6. How the organization engages in work that promotes resilience, mental health, and well-being at the [community-level](#); and

7. How the organization demonstrates that equity and cultural responsiveness are high priorities in their work.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE FOUNDATION

The foundation staff will only take phone calls for technical issues with Fluxx, the online submission portal.

- If you have questions or to get help with Fluxx or technical support, email the foundation at hogg-grants@austin.utexas.edu, or call Grants Management at (512) 475-7089, or Information Technology at (512)-475-7050.
- We will post responses on the foundation's [FAQ page](#) that may be of help to all applicants.
- Please check the [Reliable Flexible Funding webpage](#) often for new questions and answers.

APPLICATION

Submitting Your Application

Applicants interested in submitting a proposal in response to this funding opportunity must submit the required documentation using Fluxx, the foundation's grant management system <https://hogg.fluxx.io/>.

Fluxx registration is required for organizations without an existing account by **11:59 pm CST, Wednesday, January 10, 2024.**

- For new Fluxx users, to create a new account, visit <https://hogg.fluxx.io> and click "Create New Account" at the bottom right of the Fluxx welcome page. You will need your organization's federal tax identification number to complete your registration.
- For existing Fluxx users, if you have forgotten your username or password, click "Forgot Password?" below the login boxes on the Fluxx welcome page.

Once application materials are submitted through Fluxx, you will receive an automated email confirmation, or an alert if materials fail to upload. If your application is incomplete, you will be asked to complete your application materials promptly.

Need help?

- For step-by-step instructions, check out the [Fluxx How-To Guide](#).
- [About the Hogg Foundation - YouTube](#).

Fluxx Application Questions

This section reflects the application as it appears in the Fluxx grant management system.

Please note we include three questions at the end of the application to assist us with quality improvement. If your organization would like to respond please keep in mind the ease of the application and amount of time it took to complete it.

Organization Details

1. Organization
2. Location
3. Primary Point of Contact (PPOC) - (Program Director/Lead, Pre-Award Specialist, Principal Investigator): The person who can **negotiate agreement** and/or is responsible for supervising the proposed project.

4. Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) - (Signature Authority, Board Chair, Office of Sponsored Projects, CEO): The person who can **legally sign contracts** for the organization.
5. Financial Officer (FO), (Post-Award Accountant): The person responsible for the **proposed budget and fiscal reports** for the proposed project.
6. Grant Liaison (GL): The person responsible for the on-line submission of **narrative and fiscal reports** for the proposed project.
7. Second Signatory (SS): The person who is authorized to co-sign the Statement of Agreement. If there is no second signatory, please repeat the information for the primary point of contact.

All the above contacts will be notified in the event of an award or declination.

Proposal Summary

This document will serve as your proposal cover letter. Please enter information in the fields below.

Note: This section is required of the Fluxx grant application and cannot be changed. Since this is an application for flexible funding, it is intended to support overall operations, programs, and activities.

1. Project Title
2. Project Summary
3. Please provide a brief summary (1500-character limit) of the proposal narrative (i.e., a summary of the answers provided to the proposal narrative questions below).
4. Total funding requested (should not exceed 30 percent of your operating budget or \$50,000, whichever is smaller).
5. Have you or your organization applied for an award from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health before? Yes or No If yes, did you receive an award? Yes or No
6. Are you a domestic public charity or nonprofit? Yes or No
7. Is your agency based in the state of Texas or doing business as a Texas-based affiliate of U.S. company? Yes or No
8. Will you be using a fiscal agent in the administration of this grant? Yes or No

Payable to: (Legal Agency name for award payments) – Fluxx will auto-fill this section.

Test Organization
1234 Street
Austin, TX 78703

Is the above Organization Name and Address the same Name and Address for Award Payments? Yes or No

Grant Proposal Details

Proposal Narrative

Note: When answering the following questions please consider your organization's mission, impact, and financial needs and how the flexible funding will support your ongoing operations and objectives.

Proposed Use of Funding

1. Explain how your organization would use the funding.
2. How would these funds impact your organizational goals?
3. How would your organization define success relative to the planned use of these funds?

Proposed Communities of Focus and Engagement

4. What city/county, zip codes, neighborhoods, communities, etc. does your organization primarily serve?
5. How does your organization maintain meaningful connections with the communities you serve? Please provide examples.

Applicant Background & Relevant Work

6. Describe how your organization’s board, executive leadership, and staffing composition reflect the communities your organization will serve or serves.
7. In what ways does your organization engage in work that promotes resilience, mental health, and well-being at the community-level?
8. How does your organization address equity and respond to the unique mental health needs of diverse cultures?

Taxonomic Data

The following questions will help the Hogg Foundation understand who and where we fund in Texas. These terms come from classification standards developed by the Foundation Center, the Library of Congress, and Texas Health and Human Services. Language often evolves faster than classification standards, so some terms may not be what is currently or commonly accepted. We are collecting this information to share with the public and other foundations, thus furthering our transparency and helping others build on our achievements and learn from our challenges.

1. Definitions of population terms may be found here.
2. Will this proposal focus on all people or specific populations?
3. Will this proposal focus on all of Texas or specific regions?

Application Documentation

Required Fiscal Documents

Applicants must submit the following fiscal documents to assist the foundation in assessing the organization’s fiscal soundness. They must be uploaded in the Fiscal Documents Folder below. (The foundation may request additional fiscal documents when reviewing proposals.)

Please be aware that applicants may not delete files in this section once uploaded; please contact Hogg-Grants@austin.utexas.edu for assistance.

<u>Required Document</u>	<u>Required Format</u>
IRS letter of determination of 501(c)(3) status or tax-exempt status Tax Exemption Letters	PDF
Most recent IRS Form 990 or other indication of financial status IRS Form 990 IRS Form 990-N	PDF
5-Year Budget Template (Provided by the foundation).	Excel
Current operating budget Upload your organization’s current fiscal year operating budget.	PDF
Church Status Verification Form (if applicable)	PDF
Letters of Approval to Submit	PDF

Help Us Improve (Optional)

These questions are not required to submit your application.

1. How would you rate the ease of completing this application? (1 = easy, 5 = difficult):

2. Approximately how many hours were spent completing this application?

Additional feedback:

Background

The Hogg Foundation [believes mental health is not solely an individual responsibility](#), but also a product of community environments, and the potential for change is greater when we focus our efforts on diverse, historically excluded or underserved populations. Ultimately, we aim to support organizations in their efforts to engage in work that promotes resiliency, mental health, and well-being at the community-level.

There is a complex set of factors contributing to mental health disparities amongst marginalized communities including the root causes of [disparities](#), [stigma](#), the [impact of COVID-19](#), lack of [culturally competent care](#), and lack of [access to funding](#).

Research indicates there are significant disparities in mental health outcomes among various communities, especially [racial and ethnic minorities](#), which often manifests in the form of higher rates of mental health challenges. COVID-19 further compounded the negative impact of these disparities especially in underserved areas which disproportionately had to bear the brunt in mental health outcomes and economic burdens. These inequities draw attention to the longstanding, harmful effects of poor community conditions and systemic barriers experienced by underserved communities resulting in poor mental and physical health.

[Grantmakers in Health](#) states, “neighborhoods marked by poverty and a history of disinvestment are cut off from opportunities and resources that promote wellness. These communities face unequal health outcomes and widening disparities, especially among low-income residents, people of color, and other vulnerable populations. Community well-being is profoundly shaped by social, economic, and environmental factors such as housing, employment, and education. From sidewalks to toxic stress, evidence shows where people live has a greater impact than medical care, behavior, or genetics.”

Research identifies the following communities as [experiencing mental health disparities](#):

- 1) [Racial-Ethnic Minority Groups](#);
 - a. American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)
 - b. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI)
 - c. Black/African American
 - d. Hispanic Latino
- 2) [LGBTQIA+](#);
- 3) Underserved Urban or Rural Communities;
- 4) Individuals Experiencing Homelessness;
- 5) Individuals Experiencing Incarceration;
- 6) Individuals Experiencing Substance Use; and
- 7) Immigrant and Refugee Populations

Culturally responsive and community-based care can greatly improve mental health outcomes for communities experiencing mental health disparities. Successful strategies include access to culturally sensitive care, trusted engagement, local expertise, and authentic representation. These resources

contribute to the overall well-being and progress of the communities served. The lack of investment in resources has also contributed to the mental health disparities experienced by historically underserved communities. Lack of access to infrastructure and resources can result in reduced access to care, a higher incidence of untreated mental health challenges, and strains on other systems such as education, emergency rooms, and criminal justice.

While there is not much information on funding peer-led organizations, there are studies on the underfunding of mental health in general. A [2022 report](#) by Mental Health America ranked Texas last in access to care and for several legislative sessions in a row, funding was [cut from the state budget](#) for mental health services.

[Other studies](#) show how a persistent lack of philanthropic funding impacts delivery of services and supports.

There has been a growing call for foundations to issue more unrestricted funding to help social impact organizations better meet the needs of the communities they serve. Allocating resources for [flexible funding](#) can help serve two goals. First, it addresses mental health disparities long-term through organizational development and stability. Second, it creates more funding fairness in philanthropy through the intentional allocation of flexible funding and a willingness to challenge existing funding practices.

Rather than awarding limited or project-specific dollars, the foundation will provide [flexible funding](#). Organizations can use this funding to sustain, grow, or innovate their day-to-day operations. This funding approach acknowledges the foundation's shift to [trust-based philanthropy](#). It respects the expertise of the organizational leaders who are closest to the work to determine how best to allocate resources.

The foundation hopes to address the inequities in mental health outcomes and resource allocation within marginalized communities through reliable, sustained funding support over a period of five years. By offering flexible funding, the foundation can assist organizations in strengthening their operations, deepening their presence, and expanding their reach, ultimately; fostering greater mental health outcomes over time.