



Minnesota Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign Request for Proposals: Organizing Grant

Introduction

The Minnesota Chapter of Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH-MN) is a federal advocacy campaign working to meet the housing needs of under resourced Minnesotans. We recognize the persistent racial disparities in access to stable housing and are focused on how housing insecurity is often linked to inadequate access to employment, mental health services, education, and other core needs. Housing is an intersectional issue, so it is important that our membership reflects the communities and organizations that must be marshaled to ensure that everyone has a place to call home. Despite the increasing number of cost-burdened renters and people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, we know that there are proven solutions to ending homelessness and housing instability. OSAH-MN is committed to organizing locally and acting at the federal level to secure the resources necessary to ensure that everyone has a home.

Project Background

OSAH-MN seeks to grow its coalition membership and participation through cross-sector organizing, including seeking support to help identify and recruit new members as well as support their continued participation and engagement in OSAH-MN activities. OSAH-MN's goals for increased coalition membership include:

- Greater Minnesota and rural-based and serving organizations
- Organizations led by and empowering or serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- Organizations led by and empowering or serving impacted communities
- Organizations with a non-housing specific focus, with emphasis on organizations working in the areas of criminal justice, civil rights, health, mental health, and substance use disorder

OSAH-MN also seeks to grow member leadership experience and skills, to allow OSAH-MN to be sustained into the future and to provide regenerative opportunities for federal housing advocacy led by Minnesota organizations and individuals.

Project Funding, Goals, and Reporting:

OSAH-MN will provide \$5000.00 to at least four organizations or individuals to achieve the goals described below. Contract proposals may include multiple entities/organizations who together bring the experience, relationships, and skills needed to achieve project goals.

Project Goals:

- **Recruit two (2) new member organizations for OSAH-MN.**
 - Contractor will identify and recruit as members organizations from one or multiple of these goal areas:
 - Greater Minnesota and rural-based and serving organizations
 - Organizations led by and empowering or serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
 - Organizations led by and empowering or serving impacted communities
 - Organizations with a non-housing specific focus, with emphasis on organizations working in the areas of criminal justice, civil rights, health, mental health, and substance use disorder
 - To be considered as “recruited”, an organization must:
 - Endorse the OSAH-MN Campaign’s goals ([here](#))
 - Attend at least 6 of the next OSAH-MN meetings or events
 - Note: Recruited member organizations may be eligible for small grants to support OSAH-MN participation in 2021.



- **Identify a leadership role (s) or activities** that you will commit to, that can be sustained over the next 12 months. Ideas include but are not limited to:
 - Meeting chair/facilitator
 - Organizing events
 - Organizing training sessions and/or orientation sessions
 - Liaison to national OSAH meeting
 - Regional lead for a Congressional district, to include organizing outreach to that Member of Congress, setting and facilitating meetings, etc.

Reporting: Contractor will complete a work plan, due after contract finalized. The work plan should include a regular reporting schedule for member recruitment and retention and leadership activities.

Required in Response

Interested potential contractors should submit a letter that includes:

- Description of experience, skills, and qualifications as it relates to this RFP
- Describe your interest in responding to this RFP

Include in your proposal:

- Any prospects you have identified for member recruitment
- Your proposed area(s) of leadership for OSAH-MN
- If you have previously had a contracting relationship with OSAH-MN, provide at least one reference or testimonial.

Timeframe

Responses to this RFP will be considered on an ongoing basis **starting Friday, March 25, 2022, at 5 pm.** Please send all responses by email to elizabeth.glidden@mhponline.org

Resources:

OSAH-MN Website: <https://www.mhponline.org/policy/projects-and-campaigns/opportunity-starts-at-home-osah-mn>