

Libraries for Health RFP: Questions & Answers

We have more than one location, should the branches apply separately?

No, please apply as one entity.

My library is not considered as rural, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, this funding opportunity is open to all public libraries within the Foundation's service area (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties).

Can the Libraries for Health program materials and training curriculum be used beyond the Libraries for Health program objectives?

Yes, we would encourage you to share these with your library's staff, board members and volunteers.

Is the lay mental health worker hired by my library?

No, for ensuring quality of service delivery the lay mental health worker will be overseen by the licensed mental health provider or the implementation partner.

What are the expectations for using the unrestricted grant funds?

- Support implementation of the Libraries for Health program, which may include providing adequate physical space or other appropriate resources for the lay mental health worker to conduct their work.
- Backfill your and other team members' time (and also perhaps travel) to participate in the cohort capacity-building and training.
- Other information resources, supplies or equipment that you want to purchase to support your patrons' mental wellness journeys

Note: St. David's Foundation will expect an accounting for the funds at the end of each year in the grant period

What exactly are the mental health supports that can be used to strengthen my library's existing programs?

These are proven techniques to help a patron decrease adverse mental health symptoms (e.g., depression or anxiety) and improve overall wellbeing. Examples may include problem-solving techniques, relaxation exercises, and psychoeducation to increase confidence, sense of belonging and self-management of stress

What is the potential size of the awards?

Awards will range in size from \$7,500 up to \$25,000 for each of the two years of this funding period.

What happens if I am already using social worker services in my library or have some mental programs planned through an outside presenter?

Working with the licensed Mental Health Provider (licensed MHP), a library is encouraged to consider whether and how the Libraries for Health approach could be integrated into or layered on top of existing services/ programs. In the application, the applicant should write about how they might frame this. The presence of a social worker or other mental health programming is not disqualifying. The goal is for all Libraries for Health staff (lay Mental Health Worker (lay MHW) and licensed MHP) and programming to be integrated into the existing library staffing/structure-- not to be a separate, siloed entity. So, we will work with their social worker and existing programming to strengthen/complement/build upon them rather than competing or replacing them.

If we are a first-time applicant, how do we create an account to get started?

There is a “+ How to Apply” menu in the main [RFP information page](#), as well as a link from within the full RFP description document, that takes you to a “[Click here to apply](#)” button. Click there to reach the submission portal. In the *Please Sign In* landing page, there is a “New Applicant?” button. Click there and you will be prompted to start a new profile and a new application. If you have any technical problems with account creating, email Vane Rocha at vrocha@stdavidsfoundation.org.

Do you have scoring metrics for proposals?

The Foundation is interested in supporting libraries with various capacities. As such, proposals will not be scored in the traditional sense. However, a rubric will be used to gauge organizational readiness to participate in this initiative, which will inform selection discussions. The rubric may be accessed [here](#).

Where can we catch the replay of the August 4th Information Session?

The recording of the Info session meeting can be accessed [here](#).

Questions from Info Session

What are examples of initiatives that might be funded?

For this funding opportunity, you will not be submitting a project. More broadly, you’ll be describing your community, mental health resources, and what you think would be the hurdles and assets to support this initiative in your particular community. There are no project-specific examples.

Can you tell us more about the embedded lay MHW? How many hours/week will this person be onsite? Does this person need an office with walls, or is it sufficient for that person to have access to a walled conference room as needed?

The number of hours the person will be on site is dependent upon on your community and patron’s health needs and your library lay-out. Once awardees are selected, we will collaboratively assess each library as part of the start-up and onboarding. The primary reason for a location on-site is for private patron conversations should that be needed.

Do you have a sense of what the size of grants is likely to be? Is the MHW salary considered part of the grant award, or is that separate?

The MHW salary will be determined based on the service area of your library. The MHW salary is not part of your award since this oversight will be through our expert mental healthcare provider.

I’m not sure my library is ready for this funding opportunity, however; I see there are opportunities for professional development and learning for libraires within the RFP, how does this work?

We would encourage you to fill out the application because every library is at a different point in delivering mental health delivery. You are not competing. This information will also be very helpful as we think about the future of this program, supported by other entities, so that we understand how these practices are adopted by other libraries which are not ready.

While we would be disappointed if you don’t apply, all selected grantees will be part of training as part of this learning collaborative.

What about a listserv so we might share ideas and questions via email?

More details to come. The point of the learning collaboration is to facilitate connection so this would ideally be facilitated through that group.

Is accreditation required? I don't see it in the list of eligibility criteria.

No, we welcome you to apply even if you're not accredited but aspire to be accredited.

If we currently have mental health programs in place, how does this fit into the opportunity?

Wonderful. Please describe these programs in the application; we want to fully understand your offerings and experience and will work with you to leverage what you're already doing and expand on your capacities.

I am struggling with the proposal because it's not concrete. I don't have anything to take to my board or county for approval; so, I don't know if I can seek approval for this grant responsibility b/c I don't know what I'm asking for specifically.

These are great questions. To start with, we would encourage you to reach out to us directly for a conversation about these specifics by emailing Dr. Kit Matthew: kitmatthew@gmail.com or Senior Program Officer, Abena Asante aasante@stdavidfoundation.org

As noted in the RFP, this is a developmental program and a new way that St. David's Foundation would like to partner within the context of your community. We'd like to use a proven mental health model to support your patrons. This person would not be a library employee. Our hope is this offering would be a benefit for your patrons and an opportunity and, if appropriate, to take some of the mental health supports and techniques to appeal to people who may be struggling.

What's the long-term plan for this work?

This funding is a two-year commitment. As a funder, we have an interest to partner with new, non-traditional sectors to improve community well-being. We think of this as three phases of work that of course will have some overlap:

Phase 1: Organizational capacity-building: For libraries to offer proven MH services, adopt mental health supports to strengthen specific programs and center on patrons' MH journeys.

Phase 2: Collaborative capacity-building: For libraries to identify effects of their mental services and programs, scale their mental health practices, and structure effective mental health collaborations.

Phase 3: Community-wide capacity-building: For libraries to sustain their new mental services and programs, identify new opportunities to respond to patrons' mental needs, and co-lead in deep, structured collaborations across sectors to create community-wide mental health systems change.

At the end of the grant term, will there be a loss of service that we will then need to fund?

This is a demonstration funding opportunity. Each library will be able to see and assess how much your community wants and uses lay mental health workers. As the work progresses through this initiative, it's a goal that the libraries can be more formally connected to other mental health providers in the library setting.

Will we be part of the selection of the mental health worker?

No, the selection will be facilitated by our expert mental health partner. However, it will be very helpful to have your knowledge and community expertise not only as we onboard and train but to inform the recruitment process.

Is this only about having someone to refer patrons to with mental health needs?

The core model will have a lay mental health worker who is trained and supervised by a licensed mental health provider. Also, your library staff will have opportunities to receive trainings and education to deliver these strategies. Formal mental health treatment will not happen; psychoeducation, mental health first aid, depression screening, etc. will be offered within the agreement. This is about having a resource to refer to but also about being more proactive in addressing people's non-clinical mental health needs early.

What do you mean by a lay person?

This is a broad term to define someone who's not a mental health provider. This person could be a peer support specialist, community health worker – not necessarily a licensed clinician. The key is that this person can develop trusting and empathetic relationships with the community and your patrons in settings that are comfortable and allow for intimate conversations.

Can we partner with other libraries as part of this application or do you recommend we apply separately?

Please apply separately versus as part of a collaborative because we want to learn specifically about your unique community.

How often will the Lay MHW be at our library? What kind of space do we need to provide?

One size does not fit all and this depends on the degree of involvement you choose to have in the Libraries for Health program:

- *Minimal involvement:* have a lay MHP onsite who may offer stress management to groups, refer patrons to community resources (not therapy), and help those in crisis. Library staff would not be involved beyond required training.
- *Holistic involvement:* library staff much more involved, can get training to integrate MH strategies into something they are already doing, partner with lay MHW to ensure patrons. This model of community mental health delivery was originally developed for low-income communities; physical infrastructure is not required to make it work.

How often is the training?

The frequency of training depends on who is in the group of grantees which will drive the pace. Training will include basics such as Mental Health First Aid with case studies, patron journeys in mental health, how to calm someone who has anxiety and point them to library programs or ensure hand-off to community resources or licensed MHP. Your library decides on the scope of the participation. We ask that you dedicate two staff, such as the library director and one other, to ensure coverage for absorbing the new information and skills.

Who is the CEO referenced in the RFP?

The CEO references is the library Director who signs off on evaluation reports, etc.