



OPEN SOLICITATION #2024-03

Identifying Vendors for
Community Based Solutions for Community Needs Assessment
"Profiles in Impact"
Date of Release: December 11, 2023
Due Date: February 16, 2024

Background

As the County's Local Management Board (LMB), the Montgomery County Collaboration Council has historically played a significant role in convening local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to work in collaboration to promote the well-being of children, youth and families. We are called to effect change not just in the immediate, but also in the long-term for the residents of Montgomery County. A vital aspect of an LMB's role is to lead a Community Needs Assessment process every three years, which enables us to identify needs and barriers faced by our children and families and then system-build through program funding/oversight, convening, and leveraging partnerships and collaboration to bring about positive change. We are currently embarking on the 2023 needs assessment.

For information regarding the Montgomery County Collaboration Council, its initiatives, and programs, visit our website at collaborationcouncil.org

An information session will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

To register: click [here](#)

Questions may be submitted to procurement@collaborationcouncil.org until the date of the session or asked at the session. All questions asked in advance will be answered at the session. That is the only opportunity to have questions about this Open Solicitation answered. The session will be recorded and will be sent to anyone who registers for the session whether that person attended the session or not.

Community Needs Assessment:

We are working to transform policies, systems, and culture in Montgomery County via the amplification of authentic community voice and engagement.

There are several underlying assumptions that guide this project:

- Black and brown communities in Montgomery County face significant disparities in outcomes across a range of socioeconomic indicators, with persistent lack of access to quality housing, childcare, food, health care, transportation, safe neighborhoods, educational opportunities, and out-of-school time programs.
- Status quo approaches and incremental attempts at addressing these disparities will not lead to meaningful change over the long-term.
- Long-term, meaningful change requires a paradigm shift that will only be accomplished by engaging a robust community-based network to ensure that community members are front and forward in deciding on solutions to the many challenges the county faces.
- True partnership with community requires shifting from top-down decision making and tokenistic community engagement to collaborative governance.
- Collaborative governance with and for community requires increased investment in the building of a grassroots infrastructure so impacted communities can be integrated into decision-making, and community-led solutions can be activated and supported.
- Community challenges will be remedied by community-based solutions.

Funding will be awarded to individuals and organizations engaged in game-changing, community-based solutions to address the disparities in outcomes in the following priority areas (this is not an exclusive list and offerors may include other focus areas):

- Family Economic Stability
- Connection to work/education and belonging to community for young people
- Climate Justice and environmental safety
- Early Education and Maternal Health

Open Solicitation:

The Collaboration Council seeks written Letters of Interest (LOIs) or video Messages of Interest (MOIs) from organizations and qualified individuals who are engaged in demonstrable innovative, paradigm-shifting, community-based solutions to address community needs. The Collaboration

Council will profile the selected applicants in the Community Needs Assessment and the selected applicants also will be eligible for impact awards of up to \$10,000 to pursue their unique or unconventional solution to intractable community needs.

Eligible Applicants:

Applicants may be individuals, organizations, or coalitions that are moving beyond the traditional approaches and implementing novel solutions to community needs. Preference will be given to those who are embedded in community, co-design their approach with community, and those who may have been overlooked by institutional or conventional funders. They may be a nonprofit organization, an LLC, a sole proprietorship, or an individual and coalition with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

To be eligible, Applicants must:

- Be working on community-based solutions in Montgomery County, Maryland in partnership with the community, and
- Provide proof of good standing with the state of Maryland or have a fiscal sponsor who can show proof of good standing to be considered for the vendor pool and/or contract award.

Application process:

To be considered the applicant must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) or Message of Interest (MOI). The submission may be either a written document of no more than 5 pages **or** a video submission of no more than 5 minutes answering the following questions:

1. Who are you, and who do you represent? What drives you to do what you do? Who do you work with as a part of your process?
2. Are you an organization, an informal coalition, a sole proprietor?
3. Be specific about who you partner with and about the nature of that partnership.
4. How do you define your model for community engagement? Please tell us about your approach.
5. What need(s) are you addressing?
6. What are the traditional “solutions” to the need you have developed and why is your approach different/more impactful/a game-changer?
7. How would you use an award of up to \$10,000?
8. What does success look like for the community you serve?

Submissions due:

February 16, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.

A rubric will be used to review LOIs and MOIs and score them based upon their answers to the questions above. The rubric will rate the applicants on their responses to the above questions and how well they are able to demonstrate:

- Authentic connections to the community identified as benefiting from programming;
- Program approaches and models developed in partnership with community;
- Creativity, innovation, and collaboration in approach;
- Proof of impact which may include program scope, number of youth/families to be served, level, frequency, or depth of services, or other data demonstrating impact;
- Geographic location of program; and
- Reasonableness of budget/cost items.

The review panel will be comprised of members of the Collaboration Council staff and community partners.

To apply: You will need to open a Submittable account and follow the instructions [here](#).

Next Steps:

Any applicant invited to an interview will be contacted by January 31, 2024. Final decisions on selected approved applications will be made available to all applicants by the end of February 2024.