

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Community Health Ecosystem Landscape Scan
(Memphis, TN)**

Issued by Kresge's American Cities and Health Programs

Issue Date: September 26, 2022

Proposal Due Date: October 21, 2022

Submit Proposals to: Kevin Washington, American Cities Program Fellow:
knwashington@kresge.org

Background:

The Kresge Foundation seeks a consultant to provide its American Cities and Health programs with a landscape scan of the current state of the community health ecosystem of Memphis, TN. Memphis is one of four cities across the United States where the foundation conducts Place-Based grantmaking. As such, the American Cities and Health programs share the priority of holistically understanding the health needs of the community and uplifting and centering community voice in their grantmaking strategies.

The foundation is interested in how local health ecosystems can contribute to safe, engaged and healthy communities, including ways for:

- Shifting community power and ensuring health institutions are accountable, via community engagement and participatory decision making;
- Supporting resilient health workforce pipelines and infrastructure; and
- Expanding community-centered health programs.

The foundation is interested in learning more about the existing community health ecosystem landscape of Memphis and the unique opportunities to achieve health equity and development in the city going forward. The assessment should collate readily available and, if necessary, new information to identify and detail the existing assets of the Memphis community health ecosystem, overarching resident needs, current gaps/barriers in access to the needs and services that contribute to economic disparities and poor health outcomes in communities of color, and work currently being done to improve local health outcomes. These elements are important to understand as they impact the overall health of the residents and community health is more expansive than simply seeking health care in the traditional sense.

Applications are due by Friday, October 21, 2022. Kresge will make selections by November 18, 2022, with work to begin November 28, 2022. We anticipate this scope of work to last no longer than three months. The Kresge teams involved have jointly committed up to a total of \$40,000 for this contract.

About The Kresge Foundation

Based in Troy, MI, The Kresge Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in the United States with a \$4.2 billion endowment. Annually, Kresge makes more than four hundred grants to nonprofits with an annual give that has averaged around \$130 million in recent years. Kresge works strategically to find the intersections between eight programs and practices to expand opportunity in America's cities. We work deeply in places like Detroit, New Orleans, Memphis, and Fresno. We also fund work nationally, to improve systems and advance equitable policies nationwide. We use an array of flexible grantmaking and social investment tools, including general operating support, project grants, planning grants and impact investments.

The work of the Kresge Foundation is done with intentional focus on racial equity. We center equity as one of our organizational values. To us, equity means that all people – regardless of

race, ethnicity, gender, or any other consideration – have the chance to reach their full potential. We promote an inclusive culture that embraces our shared humanity while critically examining the racial, cultural, and social context of systemic inequities in our society. We believe that equity is both a process and an outcome, and therefore are compelled to relentlessly use our power to dismantle barriers that impede equitable opportunity within our own organization, and for the communities that we serve.

For more information about the foundation, visit kresge.org.

About the American Cities Program

The American Cities Program’s overall mission is to expand opportunity by promoting effective and inclusive community development practice in American cities, with focus in New Orleans, Memphis, and Fresno. The program holds a vision for the future where previously under-resourced places are resilient, offer a high quality of life, and provide easy-to-access pathways to wealth and economic mobility, while celebrating its unique cultures and reflecting the power, priorities, and preferences of its residents. This work is informed by the Foundation’s long-standing work on urban opportunity, our Place-Based work in Detroit, the approaches of Kresge’s national programs, and the insights of community partners.

We approach this work through Place-Based practice, seeking to deeply understand local context, form candid relationships with local leaders and partners, and build on existing initiatives and momentum. The American Cities Program seeks to:

- Execute aligned, cross-disciplinary mutually reinforcing strategies at the neighborhood, city, county/region, state, and national levels;
- Promote long-term, cross-sectoral change including shifts in community power structures, ways of working, and the centering of racial equity and inclusion; and
- Provide national resources, including the research and thought leadership of Kresge’s national partners, connections to national funders, and connections to peers in other cities

The American Cities Program also focuses on catalyzing change by funding equitable community and economic development initiatives which emphasize resident-informed or driven, cross-sector and cross-disciplinary approaches. The team makes grants in inclusive community and economic development including investing in cross-sector planning and collaboration, community development organizations’ capacity, housing and corridor development, public spaces, placemaking, community organizing and advocacy. This work is intended to align with and reinforce the work of Kresge’s discipline-based national programs (i.e., Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health, and Human Services) in specific cities.

About the Health Program

The Health team is focused on building equity-focused systems of health that create opportunities for everyone to be as healthy as they can be. In our ideal future, people and

communities are thriving and have the power to realize their vision of health and well-being. All sectors work together for the benefit of everyone, especially low-wealth communities of color. And we benefit from a fully functioning democracy that includes and represents everyone.

To help ensure that future, we champion community-led solutions, collaborating closely with our partners to make sure that people with low incomes in America's cities have access to high quality affordable housing, fresh food, clean air, safe neighborhoods, and economic opportunities. We aim to reduce the racial wealth gap as a pathway toward achieving health equity. We seek to reimagine systems of care and help build local health ecosystems where communities are safe, engaged, served and healthy.

We are committed to addressing racial equity in our work and recognizing the challenges communities face in addressing structural racism. Communities across the U.S. have the expertise and experience to design solutions that change systems, services, and practices to achieve equitable health outcomes. By tapping into their expertise, we can change how we think about what is possible and build a new system of health for all of us.

Consultant Role, Scope of Work and Deliverables

We expect the consultant to provide a landscape scan of the community health ecosystem of the Kresge focus city, Memphis, TN. "Community" is viewed as a multidimensional social identity at the intersection of race/ethnicity, gender expression, disability, legal status, and geography. Additionally, we consider community health ecosystems as being inclusive of the environment, the people, relationships, practices, services, and opportunity that sustain safe and holistic systems of care.

The key deliverable for this contract will be a detailed scan of the Memphis community health ecosystem to include:

- An overview of key community health indicators (i.e., data from the most recent community health needs assessment and community health improvement plan);
- Identification of key players in the Memphis community health ecosystem (i.e., faith and community-based organizations, public health department, health care providers);
- Gaps in access to the needs and services that contribute to economic disparities and poor health outcomes in communities of color;
- Current efforts in the city being done to improve health; and
- Opportunities to accelerate community-led activities to improve overall health and well-being.

This report shall be used for internal purposes by Kresge staff to inform current and future grantmaking strategies.

Consultant Skills, Experience and Attributes

We are seeking a consultant who:

- Is knowledgeable about community health and understands that overall community health correlates with a multitude of factors that impact overall well-being and positive health outcomes, including social determinants of health and social determinants of equity.
- Understands the demographic composition and historical/cultural context in Memphis.
- Has knowledge of the health organizations and community-based organizations in Memphis.
- Has public health experience and understands how public health data drives planning and investments in communities.
- Is aligned with the Kresge Foundation’s priority of promoting racial equity.

How to Apply

We seek proposals from a consultant that has the outlined skills, capacity, and interest in partnering with us to inform our understanding of the community health ecosystem in Memphis, TN. Please submit your proposal narrative and appendices, via email, by 5:00pm ET on Friday October 21, 2022, to **Kevin Washington, American Cities Program Fellow at knwashington@kresge.org**. *(Please include “Community Health Ecosystem Scan (Memphis, TN)” in the subject line of your email).*

Your proposal should not exceed seven pages (including appendices) and should address the following:

1. A summary of relevant experience and qualifications.
2. Your understanding of community health and the connection with social determinants of health and social determinants of equity.
3. How you might approach this scope of work.
4. The ways in which you would approach the landscape scan applying a racial equity lens.

Please include the following as appendices to your narrative:

1. Budget: Provide an estimated detailed budget, inclusive of all fees.
2. Work sample: Please provide one to two work samples that reflects your relevant experience.
3. References: Provide three references who can provide insights into your relevant previous experience and work.

Selection of the consultant is expected to be completed by November 18, 2022, with work to commence November 28, 2022. Deliverables for this project are expected to be provided to the Kresge Foundation on February 27, 2023.

If you have specific questions, please contact Kevin Washington at knwashington@kresge.org.