



## NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Evaluation of the New Hampshire's Charitable Foundation's investment in substance misuse prevention

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is New Hampshire's statewide community foundation, founded in 1962 by and for the people of New Hampshire. The Foundation manages a growing collection of more than 2,000 funds created by generous individuals, families and businesses which generated more than \$50 million in grants and scholarships for 2,000 nonprofits and 1,700 students in 2020. The Foundation works with generous and visionary citizens to maximize the power of their giving, supports critical work happening in our communities and leads and collaborates on high-impact initiatives.

The Charitable Foundation is also the largest private funder in the state addressing the disease of addiction. Since 1996, the Foundation has granted more than \$40 million for prevention, treatment and recovery, including for advocacy and policy work. You can read more about this work here: [www.nhcf.org/sud](http://www.nhcf.org/sud)

#### BACKGROUND

For nearly nine years, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation has been in a unique public-private partnership with the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services (BDAS) to expand substance misuse prevention efforts across New Hampshire. This strategy involved four levels of activity by the Foundation:

1. Co-funding of Regional Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinators and/or related expenses within the Regional Public Health Network (PHN) system in New Hampshire. The coordinators have served as point people, "connectors" and catalysts in the region for community-based prevention efforts. Prior to launching this funding strategy, New Hampshire's substance misuse prevention and broader public health infrastructure was fragmented and limited, public financing for prevention was less robust than treatment services, and there were gaps in data collection. With continued investment from and coordination between the NH Health and Human Services and the Charitable Foundation, the NH Public Health Network system's focus on youth prevention has become coordinated, data-driven and grounded, by design, in local community knowledge and engagement.
2. Funding of scalable, replicable and/or statewide interventions that showed promise of effectiveness. This included the Life of an Athlete Program at the NH Interscholastic

Athletic Association, Youth Leadership through Adventure through the North Country Health Consortium, and public awareness messaging through the Partnership for a Drug Free New Hampshire and the Community Health Institute.

3. Co-funding of the NH Center for Excellence in Substance Use Services at the Community Health Institute, to ensure statewide access to technical assistance and evaluation services for substance misuse prevention, treatment and recovery providers.
4. Direct leadership and coordination of stakeholders through Foundation staff's Chairmanship of the Governor's Commission on Substance Use, and the Commission's Prevention Task Force.

The Charitable Foundation would like to better understand the impact this funding and Foundation's leadership has had on the following: 1) substance misuse prevention efforts across the state; 2) the visibility and attention to substance misuse prevention by communities, state leaders and others; and 3) strength of the public health infrastructure system in the state.

## EVALUATION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

The proposed scope of work should address the following questions:

- What was the impact of the Foundation's investment strategy on the public health prevention network infrastructure and the prevention field?
- Did this investment strategy leverage additional state or federal dollars?
- Did this investment affect youth substance use rates in New Hampshire?
- How has the establishment of the regional public health system had on substance misuse services in New Hampshire?
  - What prevention programs and services do the networks provide that were not there before?
  - Is impact greater in some regions versus others? If so, what are some reasons why?
- How is the public health infrastructure different today compared to 10 years ago?
  - Has data collection and data use changed?
  - Has community engagement been impacted?
  - How have the networks influenced how sectors work together?
  - How much of this change, if any, is a result of the Foundation's funding and leadership?
- What are the lessons learned from engaging in this investment strategy?
- What were the lessons learned from the public-private partnership between the Foundation and the State of New Hampshire as the two main funders of this effort?
- What were the successes and challenges of helping to build a more robust public health network infrastructure? What could have been done differently?
- How did regional differences impact the development of the networks?
- What was the Foundation's role in building this infrastructure? Where did Foundation influence have a positive impact? A negative impact?

## PROCESS

This inquiry will require some review of historical documents. However, the majority of this information will likely be collected through interviews with various stakeholders. The Foundation will provide a list of interviewees to begin, and we expect that list to expand with additional suggestions from those interviewed in the first round.

## DELIVERABLE

The final product will be a written report, an executive summary of the findings, and slide presentations with key findings.

## BUDGET

Proposals should not exceed \$75,000 in total contractual cost, including all expenses.

The consultant must be customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession or business and available to provide services to other businesses. The consultant shall, at its sole expense, obtain and continuously maintain in force, commercial general liability insurance against all claims of bodily injury, death or property damage, in amounts of not less than \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million aggregate or excess, issued by insurers licensed in the State of New Hampshire.

## HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should submit a statement of interest and resume to Yulya Spantchak, director of strategic learning and evaluation, at [ys@nhcf.org](mailto:ys@nhcf.org) no later than Monday, March 15, 2021.