

Texas State Plan Request for Proposal
Focus: Efforts to Enhance Support for ‘Underserved Communities’

Engagement Period: August 2024 – September 2025

Engagement Award Range: 14 Month Timeline; Full engagement amount will not exceed \$90,000 **Eligible**

Applicants: Limited to Nonprofit organizations, independent researchers, and institutions of higher education based in Texas.

Deadlines: Applications are due on or before by August 7th, 2024

Number of Awards: One

Submit Proposals Via Email: Molly Voyles, mvoyles@tcfv.org, and Roy Rios, rrios@tcfv.org.

Questions: Molly Voyles, mvoyles@tcfv.org, and Roy Rios, rrios@tcfv.org.

A. Engagement Purpose and Summary

This research-based solicitation aims to collaborate with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) staff to support identifying and uplifting efforts to support ‘underserved populations’ as part of the Texas State Plan. These efforts should be rooted in the work of the community and, as outlined below, compensate experts for sharing their time and insights. For the purposes of this project ‘underserved communities’ has the meaning designated by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA):

“Underserved populations means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of special needs including language barriers, disabilities, immigration status, and age. Individuals with criminal histories due to victimization and individuals with substance use disorders and mental health issues are also included in this definition. The reference to racial and ethnic populations is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act ([42 U.S.C. 300\(u-6\)\(g\)](#)), which means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian American; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks and Hispanics. The term “Hispanic” or “Latino” means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country. This underserved populations' definition also includes other population categories determined by the Secretary or the Secretary's designee to be underserved.”

TCFV is responsible for implementing the [Texas State Plan](#) and Needs Assessment as mandated by FVPSA. This plan was last updated in 2019 and includes a requirement to highlight the experiences and needs of underserved communities in Texas. The state plan, and the accompanying underserved communities report, serve as a blueprint for funding family violence services and play a pivotal role in optimizing the allocation of resources best to support the strengths and needs of survivors across Texas.

[The 2019 underserved communities report](#) identified gaps in services and the needs identified by stakeholders from underserved communities. TCFV, in conjunction with a thinktank of experts around the state, identified many of these needs persist or have been exacerbated by recent events. As such, TCFV seeks to partner with experts in the field of research and engagement with underserved communities to learn and uplift community practices that are promising to support underserved communities. Through methods such as, but not limited to, survivor focus groups, advocate interviews and discussions with community leaders,

TCFV aims to gather valuable insights that underscore the resilience of underserved populations in Texas. The information collected will inform local and statewide planning to enhance support services and resources for survivors of family violence across Texas.

TCFV will administer the funding and serve as support on the project offering technical assistance and to assist in the creation of a next steps document for the funder. This engagement aims to honor and uplift the unique strengths of identified underserved communities, ensuring their voices shape the future of family violence services in Texas.

B. Scope of the Underserved Community Efforts within the Texas State Plan

TCFV's Role

TCFV will collaborate with the research team in the first two months to refine and finalize the plan for engagement with underserved community leaders and practitioners. TCFV will serve as a partner, as applicable and relevant, in stage two of the project which would include work with community leaders and experts of underserved communities with a focus on entities that intersect with intimate partner/ gender-based violence. This engagement will involve collaborative meetings, with TCFV providing essential input. Strong preference will be given to researchers with a background in practice and familiarity with family violence services in Texas.

Researcher Role

The selected researcher(s) will be responsible for developing an engagement plan with a goal of uplifting community voices and expertise in what is working well to support survivors of intimate partner violence from underserved communities. They will be responsible for meeting planning and compensating experts for their input. They will seek to answer the following questions though please note TCFV is open to shifts:

- 1) How do survivors from underserved communities forge resilience and support as they navigate intimate partner violence?
- 2) What service models are rooted in community work to offer support to survivors of intimate partner violence?
- 3) What practices support healthy communities that can foster prevention efforts pertaining to intimate partner violence?
- 4) How do demographic, community factors, and system interventions influence the experience of survivors from underserved communities?
- 5) What are common referrals to other community services that may be more culturally appropriate or accessible to survivors from underserved communities?

Considering the questions the underserved communities report aims to answer, please address the following priorities in your proposal:

- 1) What experience do you have with engaging underserved communities? How would you design and structure engagement strategies that draw on the strengths of the communities and identity needs?
- 2) What intersections or recommendations exist to promote racial equity or address racial inequities and community strengths in the project's design? Further, what methods will be used to seek input from traditionally 'underserved' communities identified in prior state plan research such as LGBTQ+ communities, individuals with disabilities?
- 3) What experience do you have with quantitative and qualitative data analysis, particularly in

intimate partner violence research related to underserved communities?

- 4) Describe your involvement in collaborative research initiatives with practitioners or non-university-based partners, especially in fields related to intimate partner violence or family violence services.
- 5) Describe your competencies in fiscal management of a contract engagement utilizing both state and federal funding sources.

C. Performance Standards

Selected Engagement will be required to deliver as developed with TCFV staff:

- 1) Underserved communities project plan.
- 2) Community engagement groups/meetings.
- 3) A summary of findings, in a format to be mutually agreed upon, highlighting the recommendations, strengths, and models of diverse groups of underserved communities.
- 4) A minimum of three presentations on the findings
- 5) No less than a meeting every other month if requested by TCFV. TCFV may seek additional written updates or call for progress meetings as needed.

D. Prohibitions and Conditions

TCFV will support the engaged entity in publishing articles after the scope of work is completed but must inform TCFV before beginning drafting. TCFV reserves the right to serve as an author at their discretion. TCFV commits to supporting publication even when they do not choose to co-author.

Data from the engagement must be shared with TCFV per all applicable Institutional Review Board standards. Unless both parties explicitly give permission, they may not be used or shared for any purpose, such as coursework. If applicable, TCFV requests to assist in interviewing survivors following appropriate training on Institutional Review Board standards. TCFV reserves the right to publish the findings on our website, social media platforms, and other areas as designated.

E. TCFV invites proposals from all parties representing a university or nonprofit but will weight scoring in preference of those that can display:

- a. Experience working directly with survivors of intimate partner violence.
- b. Experience working to support and uplift underserved communities.
- c. Experience working with advocates and other staff at family violence centers.
- d. Affiliation with research teams based in Texas.
- e. Specifically include efforts to promote racial equity or address racial inequities and underrepresented communities in a strength-based framework in your research regarding services.

F. Required Proposal Components:

- a. Project Description, including timeline, speaking to all required components under (C) of this proposal.
- b. Affirmative statement covering the applicants' experience and ability to meet requirements under (E).
- c. A detailed budget and budget narrative with descriptive line items should include the total amount requested and intended uses.
- d. Please include all pertinent agency and research information to include:
 - i. Agency Name:

- ii. Authorized Official Name (CEO, ED):
- iii. Project Contact Name:
- iv. Lead Principal Researcher:
- v. Co-Principal Researcher(s)
- vi. Address:
- vii. Email & Phone:
- viii. List of relevant research
- ix. List of references for current and previous research collaborators

The proposal shall not exceed 10 pages not including budget pages.

G. Selection Process

A panel with appropriate expertise will review proposals.

H. Point of Contact

All proposals must be submitted to the point of contact by the deadline. All questions must be submitted to the point of contact, and emails sent to any other TCFV staff member will not be returned.

- a. Point of Contact: Molly Voyles (mvoyles@tcfv.org) and Roy Rios (rrios@tcfv.org)

I. Funding Term

This project receives funding through the American Recovery Act Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as well as State General Revenue supplements it from Texas. All aspects of this project must adhere strictly to the criteria outlined in the OMB circular and Unified Grant Management Standards.

Important Dates

RFP Release Date: July 19th, 2024

Application Deadline: August 7th, 2024 by 11:59 pm

Notice of Awards: August 16th, 2024

Project Start Date: August 24th, 2024

Project Completion Date: September 30, 2025