

## **The American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program Building Community Resilience**

The Foundation for the Mid South (“FMS”) and the American Red Cross (“ARC”) have partnered to provide grants in the Hurricane Katrina impacted areas of Mississippi. This partnership is a part of the ARC’s Hurricane Recovery Program. The program includes a health component entitled Building Community Resilience which focuses on providing support for wellness and health programs meeting the mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

To help address the emotional needs of those affected, the Red Cross is supporting non-profit organizations that offer community resilience and wellness services that will help individuals and communities recover. Recovery Grants will support programs that enhance people’s emotional well-being, such as structured opportunities to share experiences, get respite, provide mutual support, and foster supportive networks within communities. These programs serve to enhance individual coping skills and social well-being, facilitate creating a sense of community, and facilitate the identification of individuals whose distress is such that they require more formal mental health treatment.

The Foundation for the Mid South’s previous health grants have been with the focus of strengthening and enhancing community capacity within the three states to improve the health status through disease prevention, health promotion and policy change. This partnership continues FMS hurricane work toward Recovery as well as strengthening the health status of citizens in the Mississippi.

**Please contact us if you have any questions about the grant guidelines or application process. You may also contact the Program Officer for this funding, Necole S. Irvin at (601) 355-8167 or by email at [nirvin@fndmidsouth.org](mailto:nirvin@fndmidsouth.org) for more information.**

### **Program Eligibility Guidelines**

Applications for Building Community Resilience Grants can propose services of any of the following types:

- Structured, regular group activities which are (a) designed to help people affected by the hurricanes to create supportive networks and develop individual strategies to manage or reduce stress associated with grief, change, anxiety, or other life experiences; and (b) part of a comprehensive program of services for a target population
- Recreational, educational, cultural or social programs with therapeutic or resiliency goals;
- Psycho-educational workshops and programs for seniors, adults, young people and/or their parents or trusted caregivers;

- Outreach to attract seniors, young people and their families to the programs and/or screening services available in their communities;
- Cooperative relationships with community, youth-serving or educational organizations that have access to affected seniors, children, and youth, and those service providers that have expertise, knowledge and resources to treat young people who have experienced trauma.
- Training from or consultations by professionals with expertise in culturally-specific mental health issues *who have frequent contact with affected individuals, particularly children and/or families, directly exposed to the hurricanes*. The program is particularly interested in enhancing these skills for people who have frequent contact with affected individuals, such as clergy, peer volunteers, and teachers.
- Training from or consultations by professionals with expertise in culturally-specific mental health, community or sociological issues as they relate to trauma and grief and co-morbid symptoms. Training or consultations can include access to foreign language skills when appropriate.
- Collaborations that expand the reach of effective mental health services or broaden the range of services offered to targeted populations or communities.
- Outreach with a psycho-educational focus that promotes mental health and wellness services.
- Community building activities to enhance the social fabric of a community including: community picnics, fairs, non-commercial performing arts events that bring the local community together, etc.
- In limited instances, agency-based mental health services not covered by other funding, including individual, couples, and family therapy; psychiatric treatment; and crisis intervention provided by licensed mental health practitioners.
- Other special initiatives recommended that meet the eligibility criteria outlined below, *and address our evolving understanding of the mental health and resilience needs and most effective ways of addressing them for long-term recovery*.
- **Activities that will NOT be covered by this program are any programs or services that include construction, aviation, vaccinations, and psychotropic medications.**

### **What organizations are eligible to apply?**

- Applicant must be a nonprofit under Code 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, or have a partner organization that is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and has experience acting as a fiscal conduit and providing other management assistance services. AND
- Applicant or collaborating organization(s) have experience working with people impacted by Hurricane Katrina, either directly or in partnership(s) with other nonprofits or public agencies included in the proposed project. AND
- Applicant must provide services in Mississippi.

### **Funding period and grant amounts**

Grants may be awarded for up to a 12-month period, but shorter duration grants are encouraged. Grantees may request a funding period to begin no earlier than October 15, 2007 and end no later than December 31, 2008.

*In general, grant amounts will range between \$5,000 and \$50,000.* Exceptions will be considered, but applicants must present compelling reasons justifying the need for smaller projects or the ability to manage larger ones.

### **Review & selection process**

All proposals will go through the following review process to verify the validity and suitability of all proposed grants and grantees:

Review of the proposal, assessing the proposed project and sponsoring organization(s) in accordance with the criteria below. A site visit may be considered to verify services offered or capacity to deliver proposed services as well as quality of services.

### **Review Criteria: How proposals will be evaluated**

Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:

- The extent to which proposed project(s) addresses those directly affected by the Hurricane Katrina.
- Proposed staff has experience with the targeted populations and affected communities, and has demonstrated the skills to provide the proposed services.
- Proposed objectives for the funding period are challenging but achievable, and the applicant organization has sound plans for tracking progress toward such objectives.

- Extent to which collaboration with or accessing other community resources has been incorporated into the project design to enhance skills, knowledge, reach, or to expand services to targeted populations.
- Service design and proposed staff reflect sensitivity to the culture of those to be served.
- For school programs, applicant must include letter of support from target school or school district.
- The applicant organization is well managed, fiscally responsible and ethical.

**Grant requirements: What will be required if a grant is awarded**

Organizations awarded grants are expected to comply with the following:

- Submission of periodic grant reports using a standard format and responding to questions to be provided with the grant award letter and agreement. In most cases, grantees will be required to submit bi-annual project reports and one final project report.
- Bi-Annual financial reports and one final financial report must be submitted with the project reports using the format provided.
- Any publicity regarding this grant should include an acknowledgement that the project was supported by a “Building Community Resilience Grant of the American Red Cross and the Foundation for the Mid South.” Public announcements and releases about the grant award must be coordinated with and approved in advance in writing by the American Red Cross and the Foundation for the Mid South.
- In the case of clinical services, grantees must maintain documentation of current licensure for all professionally licensed staff.
- *Mississippi Secretary of State Certificate designating your organization as a public charity or exempt for the state of Mississippi is required before any grant funds can be disbursed.*

**Process and Timeline** – Please complete and submit proposals **via post only by September 5, 2007**. All proposals must be **received** in our offices at 134 East Amite Street, Jackson, MS 39201 on or prior to September 5, 2007.

We encourage you to submit your requests as soon as possible as site visits are a component of the proposal review process.

**Procedures for Submitting Proposals** – In order for your proposal to be considered complete you must submit the FMS grant application form AND all requisite materials listed under the checklist section on page 2 of the grant application form. Each applicant is urged to read these guidelines carefully and keep a copy of the review criteria with it throughout the proposal development process.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered; submissions must include original signatures.**

Please submit the grant application form and requisite materials to:

Foundation for the Mid South  
The American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program  
Building Community Resilience  
134 East Amite Street  
Jackson, MS 39201