

Organization

Medina Foundation

Tentative Project Title

Evaluating the regional housing crisis and Medina's opportunity for impact

Please provide some background information about your organization.

The Medina Foundation is a private family foundation working to improve lives by funding human service organizations that provide direct support to Puget Sound residents. We support organizations across our 14-county funding region that are addressing a wide range of human services, including homelessness, youth development, education, and economic opportunity. We primarily fund general operating support, providing critical unrestricted dollars for organizations working to build pathways to self-sufficiency for marginalized individuals. Since our founding in 1947, we have granted over \$100 million in grants to organizations and programs that help make lives better.

Please describe the problem, challenge, or opportunity that the consultant team will address.

The Medina Foundation has been supporting nonprofits in the Puget Sound region for 70 years. We grant across a wide range of issue areas focused on poverty alleviation and creating pathways to self-sufficiency. One issue area that we continue to struggle with regarding impact is our Housing & Homelessness portfolio. Medina grants around \$4 million each year across a 14-county region in Western Washington. Nearly \$1 million of this funding goes toward Housing & Homelessness each year. Currently, we fund all types of intervention (emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, etc.) and every population (youth, families, single adults). Medina primarily focuses on providing flexible general operating support to direct service organizations. Trustees have expressed a renewed interest in funding work focused on prevention. Our region is in the midst of a housing crisis. While Medina has invested considerable resources in this issue area, and knows that the impact on individuals' lives has been critical, we struggle with the challenge of watching the issue continue to worsen. We would like the consultant team to assess the issue of homelessness across our region,

evaluate Medina's past grantmaking, and make recommendations for how we can have the biggest impact with our limited, but significant, dollars.

What is your desired deliverable? Examples include policy reports, fundraising strategy documents, stakeholder analyses, or other strategic documents.

Ultimately, we are interested in receiving a strategic recommendation on how the Medina Foundation can have the biggest impact in its Housing & Homelessness funding. We hope this would include an evaluation of Medina's funding over the last few years, an examination of the issue (and how needs differ by city/county, recognizing that the challenge in Seattle/King County looks very different than in a rural area), an assessment of other current government and private funding in this area, and a gap and opportunity analysis for our funding. Potential organizational outcomes for this work could be an identified change in Medina's funding strategies, or a new, proactive initiative within our current guidelines.

What are some key tasks the consultants will perform to complete the project?

We would like the consultants to review Medina's grants over the past five years in the area of Housing & Homelessness. This will likely consist of reviewing status reports, as well as potentially interviewing a selection of grantees. We would like an analysis of the needs of each county we fund in around this issue, knowing that they might differ by county. This includes reviewing local research (such as one-night counts in each community, as well as effective local programs or strategies), looking at locally identified priorities (ten-year plans, etc.), and talking with local government and nonprofit leaders. The consultants will also likely be asked to complete a gap and opportunity analysis by looking at other funding currently in the region, and if there is an unmet need or area where our dollars could catalyze change.

What resources are available to complete the project (e.g., access to data, support from staff, etc.)?

Medina will provide the consultant team with access to our database and grantmaking history, as well as contact information for grantees. Our Office & Grants Administrator will provide database support. The Foundation's two Program Officers are available to provide background information and context, and share any resources or connections (including

introductions) that might be useful. We can provide access to the Foundation Center's Foundation Maps, which offers data on other private funding within the region. We are also members/subscribers of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, the National Center for Family Philanthropy, and Philanthropy Northwest, in case any might provide helpful background research.