



News Release

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Subject: Community Foundation of the Ozarks awards \$100,000 in Rural Ozarks Health Initiative grants to affiliate foundations

Contact: Brian Fogle, bfogle@cfozarks.org; Alice Wingo, awingo@cfozarks.org; or Bridget Dierks, bdierks@cfozarks.org or (417) 864-6199

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks has awarded \$100,000 in grants to 10 affiliate foundations to support community health issues and local grant proposals.

The grants are part of the Rural Ozarks Health Initiative, a partnership with the Missouri Foundation for Health to address health issues in communities or regions served by the CFO's affiliates.

These affiliates will redistribute the grant money to nonprofit agencies addressing health needs in their communities. The process for awarding these grants will be announced by the affiliates in coming months.

- **Alton Community Foundation** — To support the Remote Area Medical program in Oregon County
- **Aurora Area Community Foundation** — To support agencies targeting mental health in children and young adults
- **DACO Community Foundation** — To improve dental health services in Dade County
- **Dent County Community Foundation** — To develop facilities in two elementary schools to support personal hygiene
- **Community Foundation of the Lake** — To support the "Stop the Bleed" effort
- **Marshfield Area Community Foundation** — To support community grantmaking for health-related projects
- **Meramec Regional Community Foundation** — To support community grantmaking for programs that address substance abuse
- **Nixa Community Foundation** — To support community grantmaking for health-related projects
- **Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation** — To support community grantmaking for health-care access or opioid-abuse prevention

- **Community Foundation of West Plains** — To support the community grantmaking for cancer, heart attack and stroke needs

This grant program was developed by Missouri Foundation for Health and the CFO because of a disparity in health indicators between urban and rural areas of Missouri and the scarcity of grant resources available for rural issues in general.

“We know that our work as a changemaker cannot have its greatest impact if we are not collaborating with other regional and local funders that undoubtedly know their communities best,” said Bob Hughes, MFH president and CEO. “Going into round two of this funding program with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks demonstrates the power of partnership and how working together moves us toward the best outcomes for community health improvements.”

“These \$10,000 grants reinforce our firm belief that local people know how to best address local needs,” said CFO President Brian Fogle. “While there are disparities between rural and urban community health, every small town or county has its own unique challenges. We trust these affiliate foundations will make the best decisions for their communities.”

This is the second year for the ROHI grants. A third grant round will be awarded in 2020. When complete, \$750,000 in grant funding will be distributed to more than 30 communities served by CFO affiliate foundations. More information about ROHI is available at: www.cfozarks.org/rohi.

About Missouri Foundation for Health: As a catalyst for change, MFH improves the health of Missourians through partnership, experience, knowledge and funding. The Foundation takes a multifaceted approach to health issues, understanding that programs, policy and collaboration all play a role in creating lasting impact.

About the Community Foundation of the Ozarks: The CFO is a regional public charitable foundation established in 1973 that provides asset and resource development, grantmaking and public leadership through a network of donors, 49 affiliate foundations and some 600 nonprofit partners across central and southern Missouri. Information about the affiliate network is available at: www.cfozarks.org/affiliates.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks
425 E. Trafficway
Springfield, MO, 65806
(417) 864-6199
Fax (417) 864-8344
www.cfozarks.org

