



**FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE
IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

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Request for Proposals

Expanding the Science and Practice of Open Dialogue: An international collaborative multicenter research project to evaluate the effectiveness of Open Dialogue in various mental health care contexts around the world.

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I. Overview

The Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care is pleased to announce this funding opportunity, **Expanding the Science and Practice of Open Dialogue: An international collaborative multicenter research project to evaluate the effectiveness of Open Dialogue in various mental health care contexts around the world.** This funding opportunity provides for one multi-year award to a single eligible applicant, with the possibility to be renewed annually.

Purpose of award: The Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care (EXCELLENCE) is interested in funding a visionary, international research project that will lead to consistent documentation of Open Dialogue practices across study sites, as well as understanding challenges and successes to improve the quality of Open Dialogue practice. Applicants should propose to evaluate Open Dialogue practices in countries including those outside the United States, and be prepared to work with EXCELLENCE to advance our understanding of how Open Dialogue practices can be advanced in such a way that they are implemented with fidelity to the evidence while also being adapted for local contexts and cultures. The Open Dialogue approach to early psychosis is contrasted to the standard practice of immediate diagnosis and prescribing antipsychotic medication for people experiencing early psychosis. While Open Dialogue is growing in practice around the world and shows immense promise, studies worldwide are limited and lack systematic application across settings.



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II. Background

EXCELLENCE is an international mental health community foundation which matches private philanthropy to independent research projects and innovative programs that lead to recovery. Our team of donors and volunteers embodies a rich diversity of knowledge and expertise including people with lived experience of our current system of care, family members, psychiatrists and other clinical professionals, researchers, and philanthropists. EXCELLENCE strives to nurture scientific excellence and innovation in mental health research and program support by supporting scientific rigor, trauma-informed care, informed consent, peer support and recovery-based initiatives.

Problems and solutions in the mental health field are not simple ones and so we target our funds and resources with both precision and diversity. Our donors fund independent research, develop and test innovative recovery programs, and offer high-quality professional and community education that empower people to move through mental health and trauma challenges to heal and live their best lives.

Open Dialogue research and development has been a cornerstone initiative of EXCELLENCE's for seven years and we are pleased that another recent sizable donation makes it possible to expand this research worldwide.

A COMMITMENT TO HONESTY & RESPECT

Our educational activities, research, and development grants are funded by community members and are free of industry and commercial influence. We are founded on the principles that:

- A person in distress should be an equal partner in his/her treatment team and their choice to use or not use medication should be respected.
- The path to recovery is unique to each person and the causes and solutions to mental health challenges should be explored holistically, carefully and with openness about treatment risks and the limitations of our knowledge.
- Recovery should be our expectation for everyone.
- All grantees are required to have meaningful participation by people who use their psychiatric histories or experience of extreme states in the project.

For more information about EXCELLENCE please visit our website at MentalHealthExcellence.org



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III. Instructions for Applicants

Applicants should submit proposals to info@mentalhealthexcellence.org by January 2nd, 2019. Proposals must be received by close of business, Pacific Standard Time – USA and must follow the guidelines below in order to be considered.

If you have any questions about this RFP not answered below, please email them to the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care at info@mentalhealthexcellence.org.

All proposals must be submitted in English, single-spaced, and typed with one-inch margins, with 12-point font size in the font style of your choosing. The text for the proposal may not exceed 12 pages; this maximum does not include the cover sheet and appendices (references, letters of collaboration, biosketches). Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content and must include the following sections:

1. Cover Sheet with applicant organization name and address, Principal Investigator(s)/Project Director(s), project title, and total budget
2. Table of Contents
3. Project Summary Written for a Lay Audience (maximum ½ page)
4. Project Description/Narrative
 - a. Significance and Potential Impact
 - b. Approach and Methods
 - c. Key Personnel, including community and stakeholder involvement
 - d. Feasibility and Implications
5. Plans for IRB approval/Human Subjects protection using the provided narrative template
6. Project Timeline
7. Detailed Budget with justification
8. Appendices
 - a. References Cited
 - b. Letters of Collaboration
 - c. Biosketches for Each Investigator: 5-page maximum for each individual using the provided template



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IV. Eligibility

Awards will only be made to non-profit organizations or a university.

Applicant organizations should have the administrative and financial capacity and experience to accept the award and to be able to distribute funds consistent with the permitted use of funds approved in the application and budget.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate capacity for success.

Summary of timeline:

January 2, 2019 Full proposals due in EXCELLENCE office, COB
February 13, 2019 Funding announcement

V. Evaluation Criteria

- Significance and potential impact: If successful, are potential changes in practice and/or policy identified? Does the project employ novel and innovative ideas or methods? Would it be considered leading-edge research? Does it consider trauma-informed care, informed consent and recovery? Does the outcome have the potential to change people's lives? **(10 points)**
- Approach and Methods: Is the design adequately developed and rigorous for the purpose of the study and commensurate with research question(s) addressed? **(20 points)**
- Qualifications of investigators and team: What are the qualifications of the applicant(s)? Who has contributed to developing the project and will be involved in carrying it out, e.g. people with lived experience, scientists, advocates, etc.? **(10 points)**
- Feasibility and implications: Can the project team carry out the project in a timely manner? Can they effectively communicate their findings to both academic and nonacademic audiences? Does the application demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed project? Will the results be publishable in scholarly journals? Will the results enhance public awareness and increase knowledge about how recovery-based care can be successfully practiced? Is the project well organized? **(20 points)**
- Is the IRB/Human Subjects narrative reasonable? **(10 points)**
- Is the Budget reasonable? Does the Budget justification make sense for the project? **(10 points)**



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- Is the Timeline realistic? (10 points)
- Does the proposal include all the required application components? (10 points)

The evaluation will be conducted by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) augmented by consultants selected by the SAC if needed.

The SAC's evaluation will be forwarded to the Foundation Board of Directors who will make the final decision for the grant award.

VI. Contact Information

To answer further questions please contact:

The Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care
8532 SW Saint Helens Drive #250
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503-930-0349
info@mentalhealthexcellence.org
www.mentalhealthexcellence.org



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for senior and key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME:

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement [summary of your research or program development and research/program development interests; followed by description of your role in the project you are proposing]

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment [replace illustrative examples with your own history]

1/91-7/92	Private Practice, Ft Lauderdale, FL; Psychology Consultant, Child Services, City Government.
8/92-7/01	Director, Child and Adolescent Clinic, Univ of Pensacola
10/92 – 6/10	Assistant Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, University Hospitals of Cleveland
6/10 - present	Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Honors

C. Contributions to Science [describe projects and highlight publications you consider to be particularly important]



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D. Research/Program Development Support [for each listing, specify source of funds, start and finish dates, title, your role, and total budget]

Ongoing Research/Program Development Support

Completed Research/Program Development Support



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Human Subjects Narrative Template

Objective 1

- (1) Human subjects involvement and characteristics
- (2) Sources of materials
- (3) Recruitment and informed consent
- (4) Potential risks
- (5) Protection against risk
- (6) Importance of the knowledge to be gained
- (7) Collaborating site(s)

Objective 2:

- (1) Human subjects involvement and characteristics
- (2) Sources of materials
- (3) Recruitment and informed consent
- (4) Potential risks
- (5) Protection against risk
- (6) Importance of the knowledge to be gained
- (7) Collaborating site(s)