



INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

**Rural Changemaker RFP  
Workshop**

February 25th, 2026



# Agenda

- Welcome
- About Interact for Health
- Rural Changemaker Overview
- Application Process
- Questions



# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



HOLLOMAN  
CENTER FOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE

Welcome & Introductions!  
• What are you most interested in learning about today?  
• What is your personal superpower?



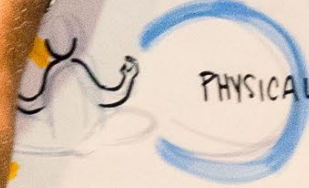


A COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FEEL, SEEN, HEARD, LOVED & MATTER

BELONGING & HELPING EACH OTHER CARRY THE LOAD



THE SPACE & ABILITY TO SELF ACTUALIZE

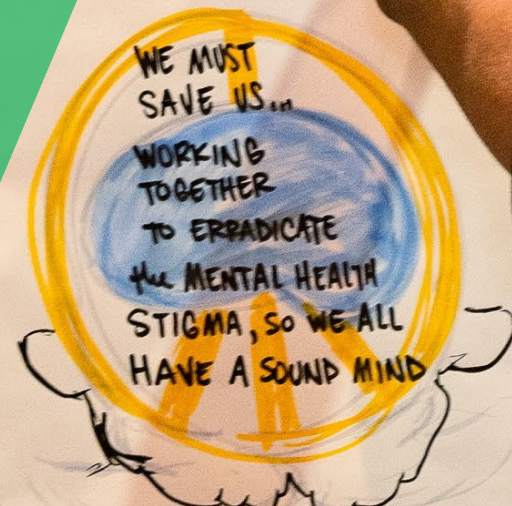


PHYSICAL

CC



A CULTURE OF SINCERE CHECKING-IN

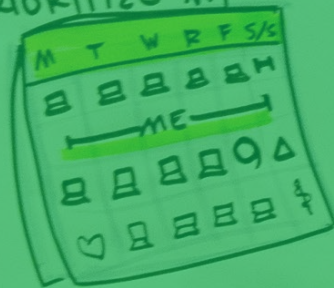


WE MUST SAVE US... WORKING TOGETHER TO ERRADICATE THE MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA, SO WE ALL HAVE A SOUND MIND



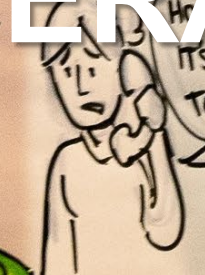
& BELIEVED

MAKING TIME TO PRIORITIZE MY HEALTH



HOW ARE YOU... REALLY?

TO BE HONEST ABOUT OUR CHALLENGES



ITS BEEN TOUGH...



RECONNECTING

DOING SOMETHING

# INTERACT FOR HEALTH



# Our Why

## Vision

People in our region are healthy and thriving, regardless of who they are or where they live.

## Mission

To ensure people in our region have a just opportunity to live their healthiest lives.





# Our Values



**WE TACKLE ROOT CAUSES**



**WE AMPLIFY COMMUNITY POWER**



**WE SPEAK OPENLY**



**WE PARTNER WITH TRUST**



**WE ARE RELENTLESS PROBLEM SOLVERS**

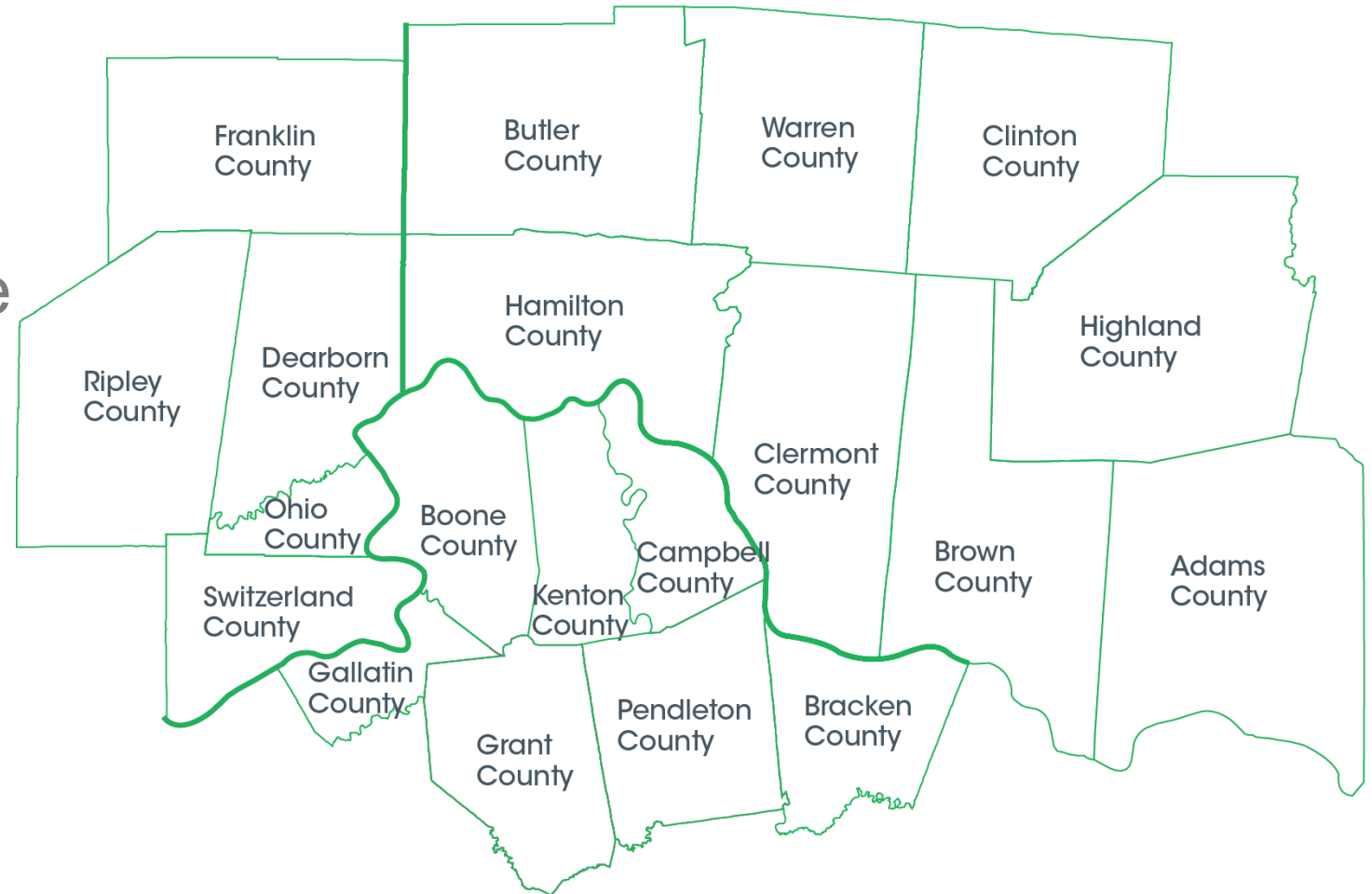


**WE STRIVE FOR IMPACT**



# Who and Where We Focus

- 20-county region
- 3 states
- 2.4 million people





# Our Priority Populations

It shouldn't matter where you live, how much money you make, or what your race or ethnicity is – everyone should have the ability to shape their communities and access the resources they need for good health. Interact for Health focuses on groups that are facing the greatest barriers to health and well-being.



Black communities



Hispanic communities



Children in families with low incomes



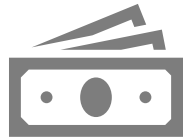
Rural communities



LGBTQ+ communities



## How We Work



Flexible, catalytic funder



Trusted, non-partisan voice for change



Independent, regional convener



Amplifier of community voice



Go-to resource for data on health and health justice



# Rural Changemaker 2026



# Factors that impact health and well-being

*Vital Conditions vs Urgent Services - The Rippel Foundation*





**Belonging & Civic Muscle** is at the center because it is both a vital condition and a practical capacity that is necessary for equitable success in every other kind of work.



### THRIVING NATURAL WORLD

#### Sustainable resources, contact with nature, freedom from hazards

Clean air, water, soil; healthy ecosystems able to sustainably provide necessary resources; accessible natural spaces; freedom from the extreme heat, flooding, wind, radiation, earthquakes, pathogens



### BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH + SAFETY

#### Basic requirements for health and safety

Nutritious food, safe drinking water; fresh air; sufficient sleep; routine physical activity; safe, satisfying sexuality and reproduction; freedom from trauma, violence, addiction and crime; routine care for physical and behavioral health



### HUMANE HOUSING

#### Humane, consistent housing

Adequate space per person; safe structures; affordable costs; diverse neighborhoods (without gentrification, segregation, concentrated poverty); close to work, school, food, recreation, and nature



### MEANINGFUL WORK + WEALTH

#### Rewarding work, careers, and standards of living

Job training/retraining; good-paying and fulfilling jobs; family and community wealth; savings and limited debt



### LIFELONG LEARNING

#### Continuous learning, education, and literacy

Continuous development of cognitive, social, emotional abilities; early childhood experiences; elementary, high school, and higher education; career and adult education



### RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

#### Reliable, safe, and accessible transportation

Close to work, school, food, leisure; safe transport; active transport; efficient energy use; few environmental hazards



### BELONGING + CIVIC MUSCLE

#### Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world

Social support; civic association; freedom from stigma, discrimination, oppression; support for civil rights, human rights; civic agency; collective efficacy; vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life; equitable access to information; many opportunities for civic engagement (voting, volunteering, public work)



## RFP Goal

To promote health and well-being in the rural regions in Interact for Health's service area by providing funding to address grassroots work in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky related to the vital conditions for health and well-being – the resources we all need to thrive, and to promote a shared sense of community belonging.





# RFP Overview

- Intentionally engage our priority populations
- Grassroots efforts
- Rural communities are the beneficiaries of the outcomes
- Identify at least one of the vital conditions for health that the project is addressing
- Plan, develop, implement and/or sustain a solution that centers rural communities as the focus, emphasizing community voice in shaping the project



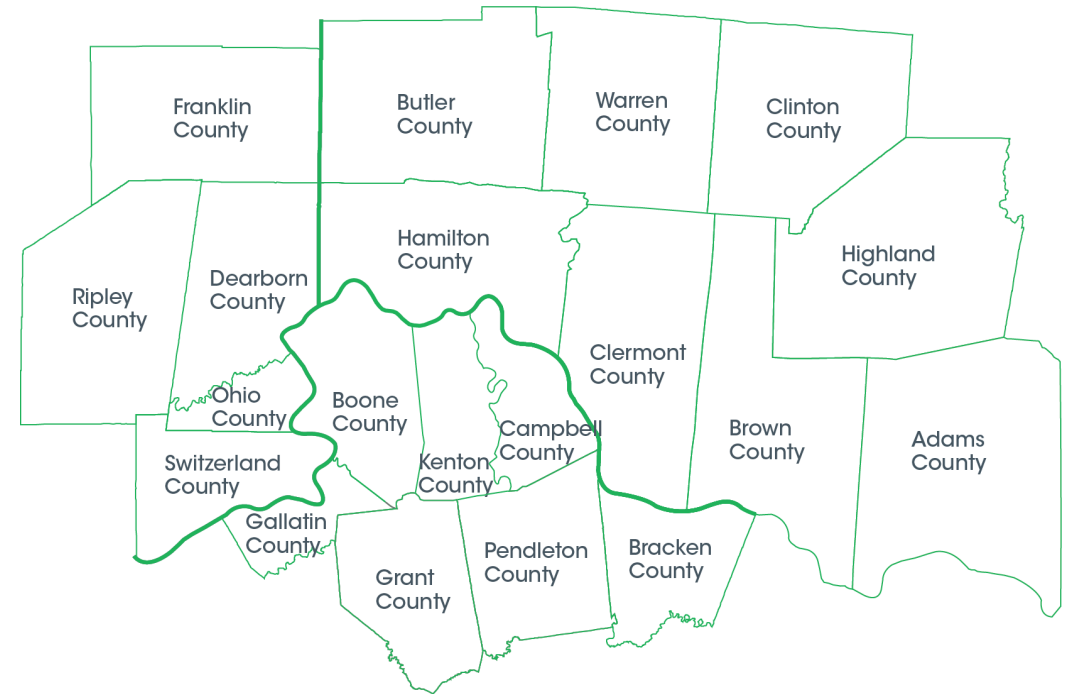
# Rural Community Council

- 10 - 15 Member Body
  - Live and/or Work in Rural Counties
- Review and Score Rural Changemaker Projects
- Meet Collectively and Discuss
  - Rural Community Council Meetings inform next steps (i.e. site visits)



# Eligibility Criteria

- Be a public nonprofit or governmental organization
- Provide services in at least one county of Interact for Health's 20-county service area





# Funding Details

- Total amount available: \$600,000 (\$300,000 per cycle)
- Types of Grants: project-based or general operating support
- Anticipated amount: \$10,000 - \$70,000
- Anticipated length: 12-18 months
- Rolling opportunity, with applications reviewed in May and September 2026
- Organizations may only apply once per year



# Grantee Requirements

Depending on the request, awarded grantees may be expected to:

- Participate in grantee meetings to share their work and learning with other grantees and Interact for Health.
- Participate in evaluation and learning activities for the grant and as part of the overall initiative.



# Application Details

- Intentional engagement of priority populations (Black, Hispanic, LGBTQ+, Children and Families in Poverty)
- Description of Geographic Area
- Vital Conditions and Community Impact
- How are people in the community involved in this?
- What's going to change?
- How do local people help create the outcome?



# Proposal Selection Criteria

- Have goals for the grant period that are clear, feasible, and aligned with the goal of the RFP
- Demonstrate that the organization can achieve the goals outlined in the proposal with the budget, timeline, and staff capacity indicated
- Focus on an issue or challenge identified *by* the local people who live and work as part of their community



# Proposal Selection Criteria

- Serve **at least one** of Interact for Health's rural counties
- Authentically engages community members in shaping project (community voice)
- Meaningfully engage Interact for Health's priority populations
- Identify at least one of the Vital Conditions for Health the project addresses



Southwestern  
Limited  
St. Louis to  
New York in  
24 hours  
on the restful  
water level route

No. 12	No. 11
9:00 am Lv. St. Louis	G. T.) Ar. 5:00 pm
11:35 am Lv. Maroon	" Ar. 1:55 pm
12:37 pm Lv. Terre Haute	" Ar. 12:45 pm
2:05 pm Lv. Indianapolis	" Ar. 11:20 am
3:18 pm Lv. Muncie	" Ar. 10:03 am
6:05 pm Lv. Bellefontaine	(E. T.) Ar. 9:10 am
9:00 pm Ar. Cleveland	Lv. 6:10 am
Ar. Buffalo	Lv. 11:59 pm
6:46 am Ar. Albany	" Lv. 8:09 pm
10:05 am Ar. New York	" Lv. 5:00 pm
10:03 am Ar. Springfield	" Lv. 4:47 pm
11:28 am Ar. Worcester	" Lv. 3:25 pm
4:0 pm Ar. Boston	" Lv. 2:10 pm

Service and equipment  
identical with that of the  
20th Century Limited.



# HOW TO APPLY



# Open Funding Page Features

## *RFP Document*

Interact for Health awards competitive grants through Requests for Proposals (RFPs), invited funding and collaborative funding. Read more about our process on our [How We Fund page](#). Current open funding opportunities are below:

Click the button below to begin the application process for any of the current open RFPs or RFAs listed below (unless noted).

[ACCESS GRANTS PORTAL >>](#)

The goal of the [2026 Rural Changemaker RFP](#) is to promote health and well-being in the rural regions in Interact for Health's service area by providing funding to address grassroots work in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky related to the vital conditions for health and well-being -the resources we all need to thrive. A total of \$600,000 will be awarded in two rounds, with grants ranging from \$10,000 - \$70,000 for 12 - 18 months. Organizations may only apply once per year. **Applications are due April 14 at 5 p.m.** An optional proposal webinar will be held on February 25 from 2-3:30 pm. Please register [here](#).

### Helpful documents:

Application questions ([Word](#) / [PDF](#))

[Scoring Rubric](#)

### FUNDING

- > Grantee Database
- > Our Approach
- > How We Fund
- > Open Funding
- > Event Sponsorship
- > Applicant Tutorial
- > Grantee FAQ
- > Grant Evaluation and Reporting



# Open Funding Page Features

*Fillable application, Rubric, Outcomes Template, Eval 101*

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- Learning & Evaluation [Outcomes Template](#)
- [Evaluation and Learning 101 slidedeck](#)



# Open Funding Page Features

## *Optional webinar and office hours*

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### Office hours:

- Indiana: Amack's Well (103 E George St., Batesville, IN 47006) February 26, 1 - 4 p.m.
- Ohio: Wholly Beans Coffee (206 Front St., New Richmond, OH 45157) March 12, 1 - 4 p.m.
- Kentucky: Opa's Pizzeria (126 N Main St., Williamstown, KY 41097) March 26, 1 - 4 p.m.
- Virtual: Register [here](#). April 3, 1- 3 p.m.



# Accessing the Grants Portal

INTERACT FOR HEALTH

f [Grants Portal] [New Letter Sign Up]

ABOUT US ▾ OUR WORK ▾ FUNDING ▾ DATA AND LEARNING ▾ NEWS ▾ Q

## OPEN FUNDING

Home > Funding > Open Funding

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**ACCESS GRANTS PORTAL >>**

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[www.interactforhealth.org/open-funding](http://www.interactforhealth.org/open-funding)

Contact Kristine Niergarth with any questions about the process at: [kniergarth@interactforhealth.org](mailto:kniergarth@interactforhealth.org)



# Applicant Tutorial

INTERACT FOR HEALTH

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[www.interactforhealth.org/open-funding](http://www.interactforhealth.org/open-funding)



# Application Preview: Word/PDF

## *Overview*

---

### **Title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Proposed Work\***

Provide a description of the work for which your organization is requesting funds.

*Character Limit: 6000*

### **Anticipated Grant Duration\***

Please enter the anticipated duration of your grant request in months.

*Character Limit: 2*

### **Anticipated Start Date**

*Character Limit: 10*



# Application Preview: Word/PDF

**Word Count**

Statistics:

Pages	5
Words	837
Characters (no spaces)	4,059
Characters (with spaces)	4,945
Paragraphs	158
Lines	167

Include footnotes and endnotes

Close



# Application Preview: In Grants Portal

**Title\***

**Proposed Work\***

Provide a description of the work for which your organization is requesting funds.

**B** *i* U

6,000 characters left of 6,000

**Anticipated Grant Duration\***

Please enter the anticipated duration of your grant request in months.

**Anticipated Start Date**



# Character Limits: Spaces Count!

## Proposed Work\*

Provide a description of the work for which your organization is requesting funds.

**B** *i* U ☰ ▼ ☰ ▼

6,000 characters left of 6,000



# Additional Features

## Proposed Work\*

Provide a description of the work for which your organization is requesting funds.

A rich text editor toolbar is shown, enclosed in a green rounded rectangle. It contains the following icons from left to right: a bold letter 'B', an italicized letter 'i', an underlined letter 'U', a bulleted list icon (three horizontal lines with a dot to the left), and a numbered list icon (three horizontal lines with a number to the left). There are also small downward-pointing triangles on the right side of the list icons.

6,000 characters left of 6,000



# Additional Features

▼ Additional Information

**Additional Information**  
You may provide additional information to support your application by using the text box and/or click the "Upload a File" button below to upload a document.

**B** *i* U

2,000 characters left of 2,000

[Upload a file](#) [5 MiB allowed]



# Accessibility

If modifications are needed to make this application accessible, please reach out to the RFP's program manager or Kristine Niergarth, Director of Grants Management, at [kniergarth@interactforhealth.org](mailto:kniergarth@interactforhealth.org) for accessibility accommodations.



# Timeline

	<b>Round #1</b>	<b>Round# 2</b>
<b>Proposal Deadline</b>	<b>April 15th</b>	<b>September 8th</b>
<b>Site Visits</b>	<b>June 2026</b>	<b>October 2026</b>
<b>Notification of Awards</b>	<b>June 2026</b>	<b>November 2026</b>



# Office Hours

Program staff will be available to answer questions about the RFP or your proposed project.

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**QUESTIONS**



Caitlin Bentley-Thayer

Sr. Program Mgr. of Rural Community  
Engagement

606-226-0025

[cbentley@interactforhealth.org](mailto:cbentley@interactforhealth.org)



[www.interactforhealth.org](http://www.interactforhealth.org)