

Request for Letters of Interest: Developing monitoring and learning systems for The Rockefeller Foundation's Food is Medicine Initiative.

The Rockefeller Foundation is working to establish mechanisms for strategic learning and impact monitoring across its [Food is Medicine \(FIM\) Initiative](#) over a twelve-month duration, starting in January 2025. This overview document provides an opportunity to submit letters of interest which will precede a formal request for proposals process.

Overview |

Corresponding email: RFEvaluation@rockfound.org

Submission deadline: October 15th, 2024

Location of work: United States, travel to New York City headquarter offices as needed

Project start/end dates: January 2 – December 31, 2025

Background | The Rockefeller Foundation's Food is Medicine (FIM) Initiative focuses on reducing diet-related diseases, improving health equity, and mitigating rising healthcare costs by integrating innovative food and nutrition benefits into healthcare delivery in the United States.

Need | The Rockefeller Foundation is committed to measuring our impact, learning from our and our partners' successes and challenges, and transparently sharing insights to promote dialogue and inform action. The FIM team seeks to use data and insights to understand progress and performance towards meeting strategic goals. A significant portion of our learning will be grounded in grantees' work, reflections, evidence and insights. We seek to engage with grantees as partners in learning, asking questions that are additive to the field and designed with equity at their core. We also seek to develop monitoring and learning systems that are fit-for purpose, practical, realistic and flexible.

With these principles in mind, we seek a learning partner to help the RF FIM team develop and implement a **monitoring and learning system** to 1) monitor the FIM's initiative's programmatic progress, performance and impact, and 2) establish and facilitate embedded learning cycles that help the FIM team understand the strategic implications of grantee and partner data, our collective experience as catalysts in this work, and our grantees' feedback. Specific objectives are:

- 1) Refine and socialize a FIM impact monitoring and learning plan for the Rockefeller Foundation's body of work, in alignment with data equity principles
- 2) Create internal tools to put the impact monitoring plan into action
- 3) Propose simple grantee feedback systems and team-wide learning norms/practices

- 4) Conduct learning sessions with the FIM team, engaging grantees to gather feedback, share insights and inputs

It is important that the system is considerate of the restrictions on use of private foundation funding, including but not limited to the prohibition on lobbying and certain engagement with government officials. Outputs from this work should consider legally compliant activities and structures for potential support of impactful work.

Selection Criteria | We ask that you submit your letter of interest of no more than two pages, outlining the following:

- **MEL capabilities:** A description of your organization/team including relevant experience in alignment with the desired qualifications
- **Equity capabilities:** A brief summary of how you've used data equity principles in your work to date
- **FIM familiarity:** An explanation of your familiarity with U.S. food and health systems, and where applicable, Food is Medicine
- **Applied experience:** An example (i.e., case study) of similar work completed

Expected Deliverables |

- Detailed workplan
- FIM impact monitoring and learning plan (strategic learning questions, domains of inquiry, indicators, and ways of working) refined in alignment with data equity principles
- Draft impact monitoring guidance, including indicator definitions, data collection templates, grantee communication templates
- Impact monitoring data repository
- Repository management training
- Final impact monitoring guidance
- Grantee feedback systems (what, when, how)
- Team-wide learning norms/practices
- One to two learning sessions

Audience and Use | The primary users are the Rockefeller Foundation FIM team. This workstream will require deep engagement with FIM grantees; indeed, we aim for the information and insights resulting from this work to be of use to them as well. Finally, we are committed to sharing what we learn transparently through outputs such as our annual impact report and other knowledge products.

Budget Range | A range between \$250,000-350,000 is available for this scope of work.

Organizational Profile |

- Familiar with principles of data equity and equity-informed evaluation
- Skilled in facilitating strategic learning sessions, grounded in real-world examples and applications
- Experience working with stakeholders across health and food systems in the US
- Diverse capabilities within MEL, with the ability to pivot focus and approach as needed
- Ability to produce quality deliverables within constrained time
- Collaborative and participatory, able to weigh many inputs and propose paths forward
- Familiarity with existing data ecosystem of US healthcare coverage and access
- Transparent, strong communication

Submission guidance | Please submit a letter of interest of no more than 2 pages, single-spaced, with no smaller than size 11 font by **Tuesday, October 15th at 5:00 PM ET** to RFEvaluation@rockfound.org.

Following submission of LOIs, we will invite a smaller pool of applicants (up to 5) to submit a proposal and budget, via a formal Request for Proposals. We hope to make final decisions by the end of November.

Timeline |

- October 2nd: Request for Letters of Interest (LoI) released publicly, with targeted contacts and through an open call
- October 15th: LoI submission deadline
- November 1st: Shortlisted candidates informed, request for proposals distributed to shortlisted candidates

For any questions, applicants may reach out to Saroj Sedalia at RFEvaluation@rockfound.org.