



ETHEL & JAMES

FLINN FOUNDATION

2026



Adult Mental Health

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Timeline and Important Dates

Application Deadline: July 16, 2026 (Before 4:00 p.m.)

Decision Notification:	September 17, 2026
Funds Issued:	December 17, 2026
Two Year Grant Term:	January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028
Progress Report Due	March 1, 2028
Final Report Due:	March 1, 2029



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MISSION

The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation (the “Foundation”) is a Detroit based private foundation established in 1976 by Ethel “Peggy” Flinn and her brother, James “Jim” Flinn, Jr. Peggy Flinn passed away in 1994. Jim Flinn, Jr., who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his early 20’s, led a remarkable life until his passing away in 2007 at the age of 91. The Foundation’s mission is to advance effective, well-researched mental health treatment, services and programs that meet the needs of people in Michigan. The Foundation’s geographic focus is primarily southeast Michigan, defined as the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw.

ELIGIBILITY AND AVAILABLE FUNDING

This RFP is open to local or state governmental agencies and non-profit organizations that provide mental health care and treatment for adults (22 years and older) either exclusively or as a component of its overall services. The organization should be located in southeast Michigan - specifically Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, or Washtenaw County.

The Flinn Foundation is requesting proposals to implement Evidence-Based Practices and has allocated approximately \$500,000 for 2026. Two-year grant requests ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year will be considered. The total two-year award will be determined during the grant decision process. If the proposal is to expand and enhance an existing program or service, please apply under the Capacity Building application.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

It is now well documented that knowledge gained through research has, in many instances, not been translated to everyday clinical practice in the mental health field. Therefore, the Foundation has primarily focused its grantmaking on accelerating the implementation of best practice treatment programs in



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community settings throughout southeast Michigan for adults 22 years and older. The Foundation uses the standards set by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in identifying a model as evidence-based and defines it as follows: a practice that has demonstrated positive results in at least two randomized control studies or in a large series of single-case experiments.

There is abundant literature about implementation of evidence-based practices. Without limiting your research, the attached websites and information can be used for reference **(Attachment 1)**.

FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR 2026

The following proposals aimed at advancing best practice treatment programs, promoting early intervention, and fostering cross-system collaboration to address inequities in mental health access and outcomes and efficiency will be prioritized:

Integrating behavioral health care in primary care settings

Implementing best practice therapeutic treatment programs

Implementing best practice peer support lived experience programs

Implementing programs that focus on behavioral health improvements for veterans

Implementing best practice models that divert people from the criminal justice system into behavioral health treatment

Fostering cross-sector collaborations that lead to meaningful systemic change and improvement in behavioral health access, delivery, treatment, outcomes, and health equity



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INQUIRIES

You may contact staff at the Foundation to discuss eligibility and questions regarding this RFP. However, a discussion is discretionary and not a requirement.

Andrea M. Cole

President and CEO

acole@flinnfoundation.org

(313) 309-3437

SUBMISSION

All applications must be submitted through the Foundation's online application process that is accessible directly from [our website](#). The Foundation's grantmaking priorities are outlined in detail and a tutorial is available to help walk you through the application process.

REQUIREMENTS

When preparing your proposal application, please respond in clear and plain language that accurately describes your project and intended outcomes without too many buzzwords, jargon, or citations. To help you prepare for the on-line grantmaking application process, we have outlined the following elements that should be included in your proposal application sections:

■ **Mission, Accomplishments and Organizational Capacity:**

- Provide a brief history of the organization and/or department, current mission, goals and description of services.
- Describe your organization's capacity and resources to implement the evidence-based practice or program and the specific activities.

■ **Purpose/Need/Population Served:**

- Provide a clear description of the program and rationale/need for services.
- Identify the age range of your target population, geographical area, current number of people served, the projected number of individuals



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to be served directly by this program and the vulnerable nature of the population.

- Identify the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) to be implemented and cite one specific source of credible evidence that the program is effective. Evidence may include, for example, research studies, proven models, or evaluations.
- Describe how this program will improve access to care, delivery of services and mental health treatment outcomes for the population served.

Activities and Outcomes:

- Provide a description of how the organization plans to implement the program and incorporate the EBP into your core services.
- Describe the services and activities to be provided and the specific measurable results and outcomes that you wish to achieve during the grant period.

Collaboration:

- Identify collaborative/multi-sector partners and stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities.

Evaluation/Impact:

- Explain how the outcomes of the program will be measured and reported.

Sustainability:

- Describe how the proposed project/activities will be sustained after the end of the grant term and integrated into your core services. If the services can be supported through billable services, or other revenues, include information on how and when these funding streams will be utilized to achieve sustainability.



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■ **Attachments: The following three reports are required along with the application:**

- **Executive Summary** ([Click here](#) to download the template - see directions on [Page 10](#) to help you with planning). The executive summary is limited to two pages. This summary will be presented to the Board of Trustees as your impact statement so make sure it is a clear, concise and compelling overview of the need you are addressing, project goals, activities and outcomes expected from the program.
- **Budget/Actual Expenditure Report** ([Click here](#) to download the template - see example on [Page 9](#) to help you with planning).
- **Current financial audit** conducted by an independent certified public accountant (*within last two calendar/fiscal years*)

GRANT DECISION PROCESS

The Board of Trustees will review all proposals and make final approvals. The funding decisions will be based on the following considerations:

- The degree to which the proposal addresses priority areas as defined in this RFP
- Ability to significantly improve the quality, scope, or delivery of mental health services
- Ability to reduce inequities and disparities in access to care and treatment
- Ability to develop cross-system approaches to strengthen delivery of care and services
- Ability to sustain program and services beyond grant term



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REPORTING

All organizations who receive a grant will be required to sign a Grant Award Agreement Letter notifying the Foundation of their ability to comply with all reporting requirements. Grant funds are dispensed in December, 2026 and the grant term for all funded projects begins January 1, 2027.

APPLY

Please apply online at www.flinnfoundation.org/apply. *The Executive Summary and Budget/Actual Expenditure Report templates are available at the bottom of the webpage.*



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Websites and Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – SAMHSA

- SAMHSA's Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center
- National Council for Mental Well Being Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions
- Access to Behavioral Health in Michigan

American Psychiatric Association – APA

- APA Practice Guidelines



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ATTACHMENT 2



The Flinn Foundation Budget/Actual Expenditure Form For Year [1]

The purpose of this Budget Form is to provide The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation with complete information about your program's projected expenses and revenue. Please submit this budget form with your complete proposal and required attachments. Please itemize where necessary (for example, salaries). Include costs that are directly related to the program and indispensable to it. The Foundation will not approve indirect costs budgeted as a percentage of the grant amount. If your request is for more than one year, complete the spreadsheet for each year you are requesting funding (see tabs below). **NOTE:** You will also use this form to submit Actual Expenditures with your Progress and/or Final Expenditure Report. Keep a saved copy for your records.

[Insert Name of Organization]	Total for Program	Amount Requested from the Foundation	* Actual Expenditures
EXPENSES			
Salaries (Itemize. If less than full time, prorate or specify number of F			
Evaluation			
Professional Services (legal, accounting, etc.)			
Training			
Consultants/Contracted Services (other than evaluation)			
Travel			
Equipment, Technology and/or Supplies			
Printing and Copying			
Other (Specify detail budget expenses in this category below)			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUE	Committed	Pending	
Grants/Contracts/Contributions:			
The Flinn Foundation Request			
Government (indicate whether local, state, federal)			
Other Foundation Support			
Other (Specify detail budget expenses in this category below)			
In-Kind (indicate source)			
TOTAL REVENUE AND RESOURCES	\$0	\$0	\$0

ITEMIZATION	Total for Program	Amount Requested from the Foundation	* Actual Expenditures
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0

* Only applicable when submitting a Progress or Final Expenditure Report



INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Note: [Click here to download the formatted Executive Summary Template](#) or use the following format when submitting attachment:

Word document (No Pdfs, Letterhead, Logo, or Footer)

Page Limit: Two

Margins: Top, Bottom, Left and Right: 1.0”

Font: Times Roman

Font Size: 12

Line Spacing: Single

Letter Style: Block

Text Align: Justify

Header: Organization Name (Capital Letters, Centered and Bold)