



Request for Information

Backbone Support for the Maternal Health Network

In 2018, First 5 San Bernardino invested in the establishment of an independent initiative that would bring together various stakeholders in the maternal health system to support children and families in San Bernardino County. The Maternal Health Network (MHN, herein referred to as “Network”) of San Bernardino County is a collective of various service providers and advocates who support the maternal health system throughout San Bernardino County. In 2020, the Network adopted a strategic plan with the purpose of establishing a comprehensive, coordinated, and responsive support system for families who are planning to become pregnant, those that are pregnant, and those that have recently delivered a child. The plan can be found on the MHN website by clicking [here](#).

The plan is meant to direct activities aimed at fulfilling the initiative's vision which is that:

The Maternal Health Network of San Bernardino County empowers, respects, and supports families before, during and after pregnancy to optimize health and well-being for babies and mothers.

First 5 San Bernardino commissioned the support of Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) to establish the Maternal Health Network and develop a collaborative strategic plan to improve birthing outcomes for babies and families in San Bernardino County. For three years, SEI supported the MHN by implementing the following six backbone functions in accordance with the collective impact model:



From its inception, it was understood that the MHN would eventually need to transition to a local organization who could support these activities in perpetuity. In September 2021, the existing backbone organization (SEI) convened a subcommittee of the MHN (herein referred to as the Backbone Subcommittee) to identify the best approach for backbone support moving forward, with the intent to transition backbone support activities over during the FY 2022-2023 (7/1/2022 – 6/30/23).

The Subcommittee identified three agencies as organizations that could potentially serve as backbone support to the MHN. Two of those three organizations are interested in the role and continue to be considered. The subcommittee is now releasing this request for information to all existing MHN member organizations to ensure that all possible partnerships are fully explored.



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This request for information is being made to identify among **EXISTING MHN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS** a single agency to support backbone efforts for the MHN in the long term.

In no more than **five** pages, please provide a response to the questions in the table below.

What to Submit:

1. Describe how there is **mission alignment** between your organization and the MHN?
2. How will your organization position itself as a **neutral convener** in support of the entire MHN membership as opposed to an advocate of specific sectors or viewpoints?
3. Please outline your **proposed approach** to serving as the backbone organization in each of the six essential functions (guiding vision and strategy, supporting aligned activities, establishing shared measurement practice, cultivating community engagement and ownership, advancing policy, and mobilizing resources).
4. Explain what your **staffing plan** would look like if you were to serve in the role of the MHN backbone organization?
5. Please describe what **transition supports/technical assistance** you think would best position your organization for successful transition into the MHN backbone role?

When to Submit:

A response to the request for information should be submitted **no later than:**

July 29, 2022, at 5 pm.

How to Submit:

Please send your submission to: maternalhealthnetworksb@gmail.com

For any questions regarding this request,
please contact Lisa Watson (lwatson@socialent.com)