



INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

# Rural Changemaker Grant

February 2025



# Agenda

- Overview of Interact for Health
- Rural Changemaker Request for Proposals (RFP)
- RFP Process
- Q&A



# Our Advancing Health Justice Team



**Kelley Adcock**  
Senior Director  
Data & Learning



**Caitlin Bentley-Thayer**  
Senior Program Manager of  
Community Engagement (Rural)



**Sonya Carrico**  
Program Director  
Mental Health Policy



**Julian Collins**  
Senior Program Manager of  
Community Engagement  
(Urban/Suburban)



**Colleen Desmond**  
Senior Manager  
Data & Learning



**Megan Folkerth**  
Senior Director of  
Health Policy & Systems



**Ashlee Young**  
Vice President  
Policy & Engagement



# 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**



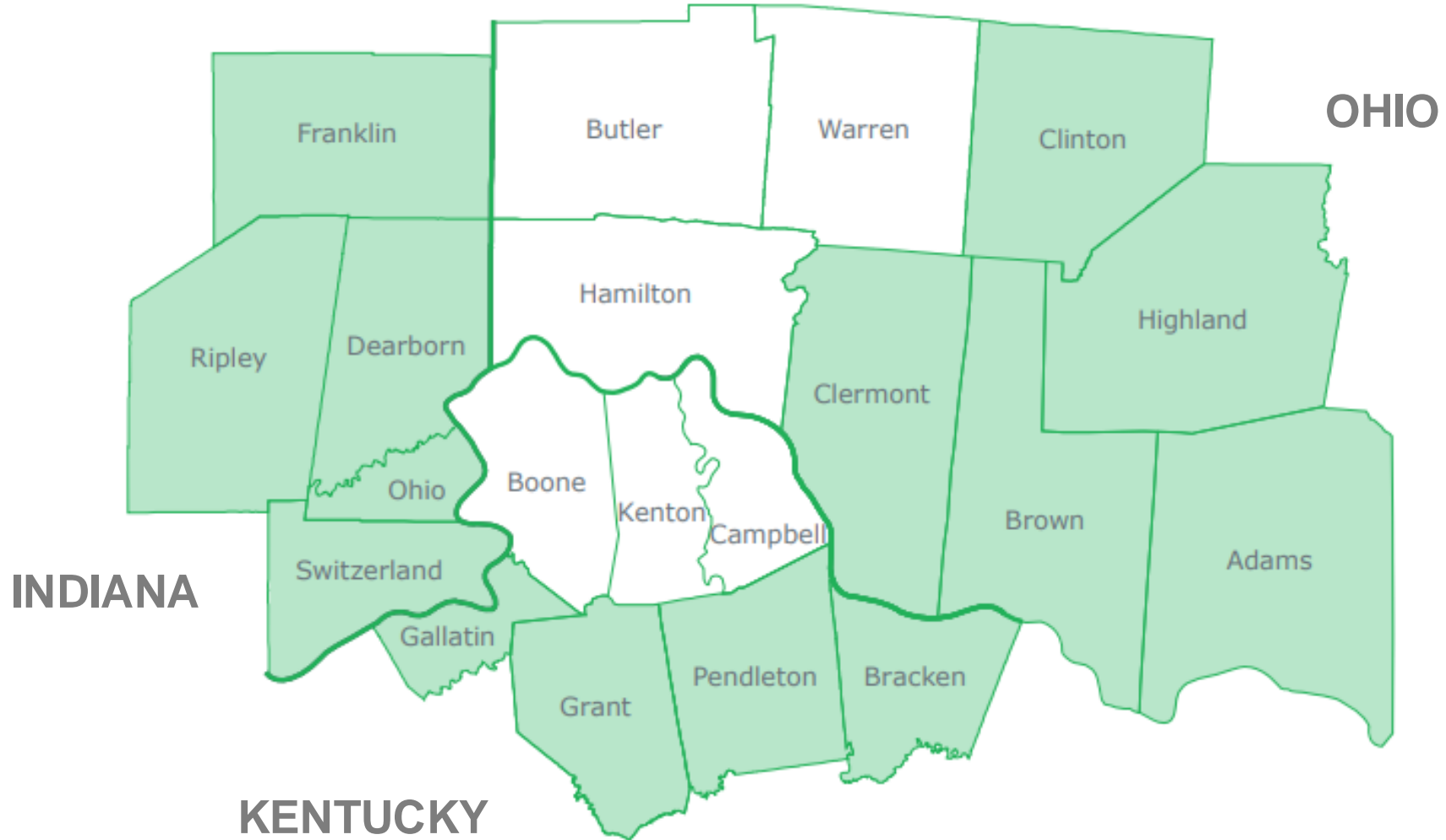
**WE ARE RELENTLESS PROBLEM SOLVERS**



**WE STRIVE FOR IMPACT**



# Where We Work







# 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

## 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.

## VALUES



**We tackle root causes**



**We amplify community power**



**We speak openly**



**We partner with trust**

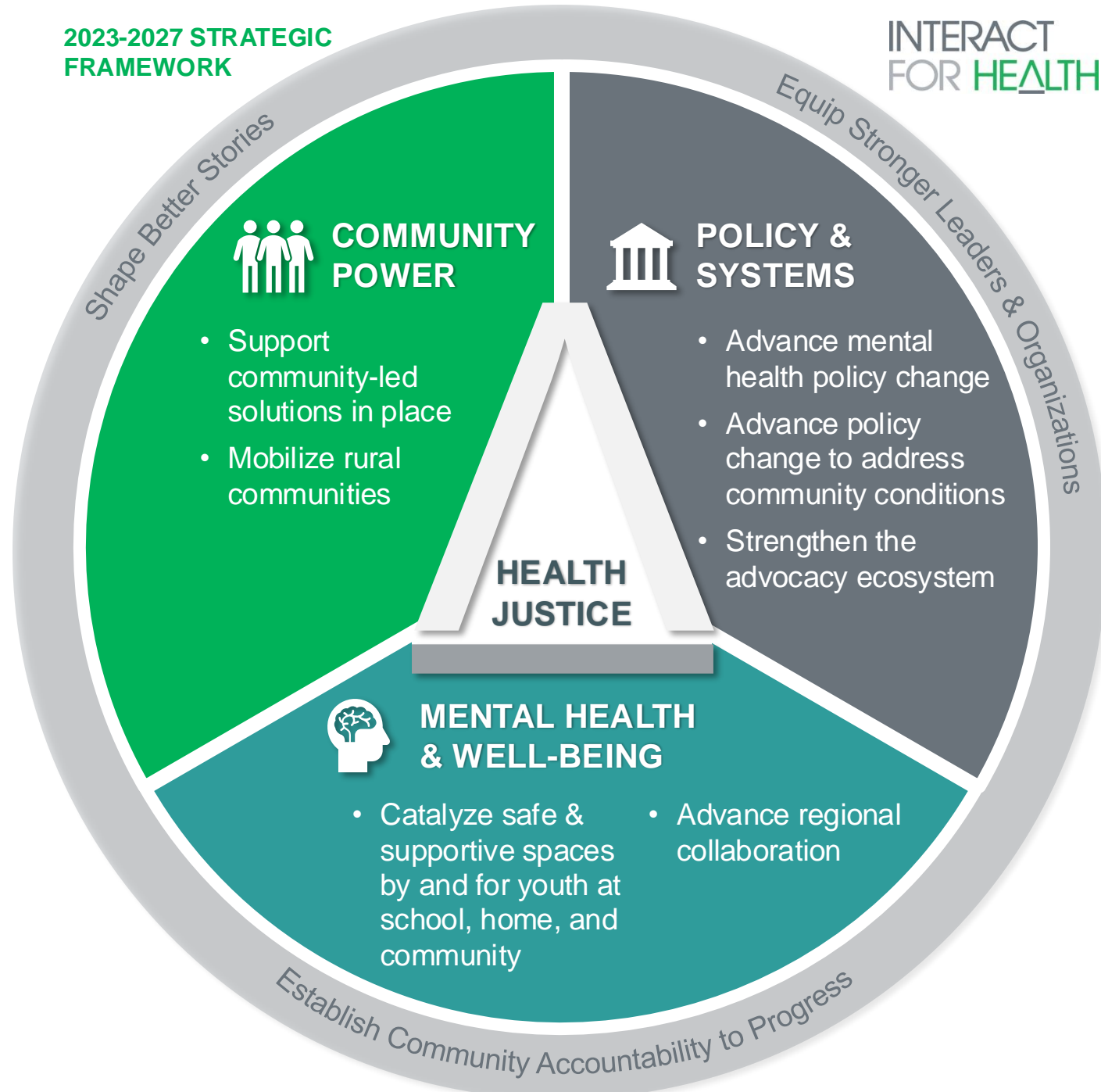


**We are relentless problem solvers**



**We strive for impact**

## 2023-2027 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



## INTERACT FOR HEALTH

## PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Black communities
- Hispanic communities
- Low-income families
- Rural communities
- LGBTQ+ communities

## HOW WE WORK

- Flexible, catalytic funder
- Trusted, nonpartisan voice
- Independent, regional convener
- Amplifier of community voice
- Go-to resource for data

## GENERATIONAL IMPACT

**Health justice is achieved when a person's health is no longer determined by who they are or where they live.**

We strive for a system that produces overall improvement and reduced disparities in:

- ↑ Life expectancy, quality of life
- ↑ Mental health, well-being
- ↓ Racism, discrimination
- ↓ Deaths of despair and premature death





## 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



# Agenda

- Overview of Interact for Health
- Rural Changemaker Request for Proposals (RFP)
- RFP Process
- Q&A



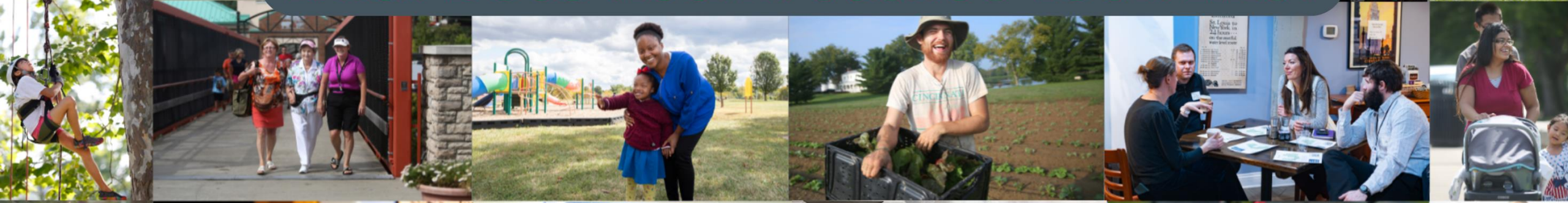


# RURAL CHANGEMAKER RFP





# What Does Health Justice Look Like?

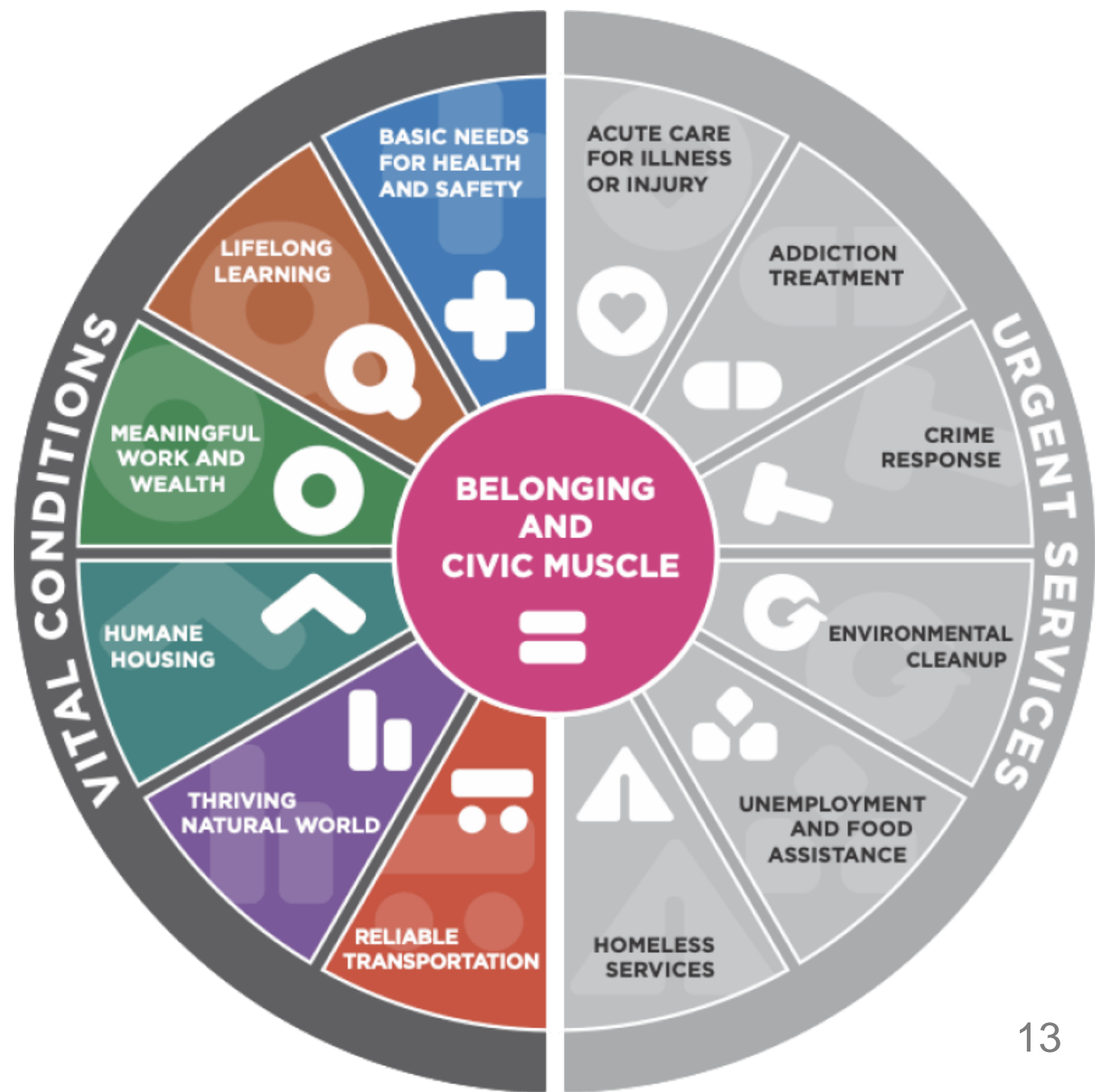






# Factors that impact health and well-being

*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)



# Rural Community Council

- 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).



# RFP Goal

To provide strategic funding that enhances and supports grassroots work addressing the seven vital conditions of health in the rural regions served by Interact for Health in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.







## 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



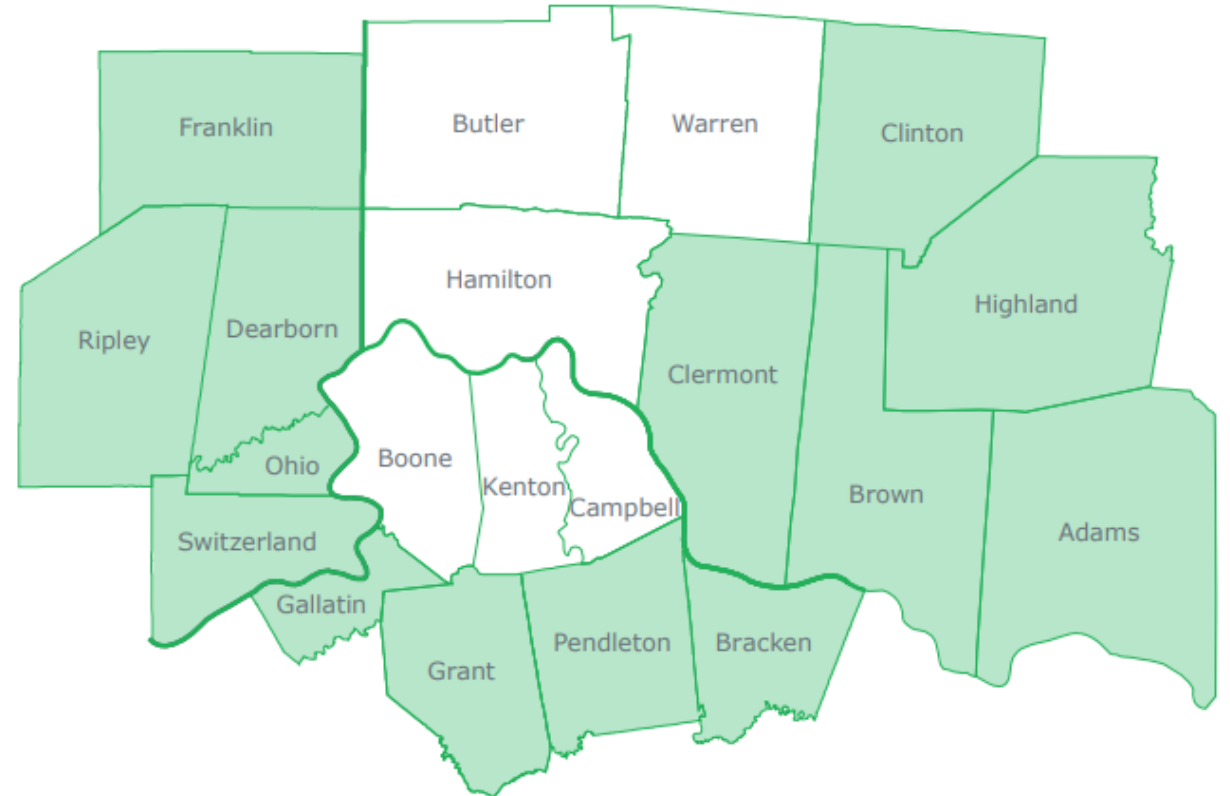
## Funding Details

- 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 April and September 2025



# Eligibility Criteria

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





# 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



# Agenda

- Overview of Interact for Health
- Rural Changemaker Request for Proposals (RFP)
- RFP Process
- Q&A



# 2025 APPLICATION PROCESS



# Community Information Sessions

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

- In-person: Join us for quarterly office sessions in local libraries at the location most convenient to you.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Brown County Public Library- Georgetown<br>(200 W Grant Ave, Georgetown, OH 45121)   | <b>Feb. 14, Aug. 21</b><br><b>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</b> |
| Grant County Public Library- Williamstown<br>(201 Barnes Rd, Williamstown, KY 41097) | <b>Mar. 6, Sept. 4</b><br><b>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</b>  |
| Tyson Library- Versailles<br>(325 W Tyson St, Versailles, IN 47042)                  | <b>Feb. 20, Aug. 28</b><br><b>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</b> |





# How to Apply

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

INTERACT FOR HEALTH

ABOUT US ▾ OUR WORK ▾ GRANTEES ▾ DATA AND LEARNING ▾ WHAT'S NEW ▾

OPEN FUNDING

Home > Grantees > Open Funding

Interact for Health awards competitive grants through Requests for Proposals and Requests for Applications. Organizations submit a proposal based on the requirements of the RFP or RFA. Interact for Health reviews the proposals and awards a limited number of grants to the organizations that best meet the requirements of the RFP or RFA.

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 >

GRANTEES

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

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



# Timeline

|                        | <b>Round #1</b>   | <b>Round# 2</b>      |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Proposal Deadline      | <b>April 14th</b> | <b>September 8th</b> |
| Site Visits            | <b>May 2025</b>   | <b>October 2025</b>  |
| Notification of Awards | <b>June 2025</b>  | <b>October 2025</b>  |



## Site Visits

Informal conversations to get a better feel for the project.

Topics can include:

- General discussion of project and budget
- The population of focus
- Any disparities and how this project plans to address them
- Community engagement tactics
- Collaborating partners and organizations or those you intend to engage
- What “success” for this project will look like





**QUESTIONS**





# Contact Us



Caitlin Bentley-Thayer

Senior Program Manager of Rural Community  
Engagement

606-226-0025

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