

The City of Smithville seeks two consultants to assist with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Roadmaps Acceleration Action Program.

Consultant 2: Facilitator. \$2,500; estimated 62 hours over eight (8) months.

Job Description: A consultant (“facilitator”) will work together with the Smithville Whole Health Partnership (SWHP), an IT consultant, and volunteers who have expressed their interest in working to build the Culture of Health in Smithville to more actively engage the community. Finding out why people don’t participate and addressing those issues is a primary concern. In particular, creating a space for dialogue with vulnerable populations is important to build relationships that make people feel safe and welcome to join community activities, and for SWHP to provide the programming they want in a format that works best for them.

SWHP members and volunteers will host at least six “Kitchen Table Talks” with neighbors and friends to introduce them to the new app and how to use it. During these informal sessions, the Facilitator will help identify the root issues that prevent vulnerable populations from participating in programs and events throughout the community, and from accessing existing health service providers. We will work to make the space safe for participants to feel comfortable engaging in the important dialogue needed to discuss issues including race, class, social stigma, and dealing with our differences. The Facilitator will help mediate and/or diffuse conflicts that may arise during these frank discussions.

Prior to these meetings, this consultant will provide training to the prospective hosts in basic active listening and conflict resolution strategies, so that the hosts can apply those lessons to the ensuing discussions, and can continue to host/support “Kitchen Table Talks” after the grant period has ended. Other community leaders will also be invited to participate to host and/or to be trained, and will be asked to provide information on the best ways to reach out to the people in their neighborhoods and communities of choice. The Talks will introduce more community members to the app (and any new features as it develops), and potentially will create a venue for other topics of information and access to services, guest speakers, as well as a safe place for feedback and engagement. SWHP anticipates that these programs will help train and empower community members to more fully participate in their own health care as well as to voice their concerns and ideas to public officials and service providers.

This feedback will be recorded and disseminated to SWHP partners and other appropriate organizations. In time, this relatively small-scale method of collecting information from the community may be augmented through the app to be developed by the IT Consultant, which would allow for a more robust and comprehensive method of collecting feedback and disseminating it to appropriate people to address any issues that arise. Meeting these immediate needs will open the doors to building a better Smithville by expanding engagement and giving a greater voice to achieve the system and policy changes that will be needed in the current volatile environment.

Education and Skills: The candidate for this consultant position will have an appropriate degree and/or certification, experience and skills in community development and engagement, conflict mediation and resolution, and interpersonal communication.

Contact Jill Strube, Grants Administrator, for more information: 512 237 3282 x 2109; jstrube@ci.smithville.tx.us

Submit a resume/CV and cover letter stating interest in the program and qualifications specially related to this project to jstrube@ci.smithville.tx.us or PO Box 449 / Smithville, TX 78957.

Position is open until filled.

The City of Smithville is an equal opportunity employer.