



BETTER TOGETHER FUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RFQ

The Better Together Fund (BTF) has released a Technical Assistance RFQ for providers of technical assistance in various areas related to strategic partnerships. This is the response of the applicant below:

What is the legal name of the consulting firm or independent consultant?	Midwest Evaluation and Research, LLC
Please provide the legal structure of the firm.	LLC
What year was the firm founded? (if applicable)	2015
How many individuals work in the firm?	35
Please provide the names and title of key individuals in the firm who would potentially be working as part of this RFQ.	Matthew Shepherd, Ph.D. - CEO President McKenna LeClear. - Senior Consultant Charli Brickner - Consultant Laura Baron – Senior Analyst Chahna Johnson - Senior Consultant Michelle Brown - Consultant
Please provide the consultant’s or firm’s website.	https://midwestevaluation.com/
For an independent consultant. How long has the applicant been working as a consultant? (if applicable)	25 years
Please provide a list of languages spoken by staff.	English, Spanish

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name	Matthew Shepherd
Address	1105 Constitution, Suite 500
City/Town	Emporia
State/Province	KS
Zip/Postal Code	66801
Country	United States
Email Address	matt.shepherd@midwestevaluation.com
Phone Number	620-208-6143

Please describe the geographic area served by the firm.	All of the United States
---	--------------------------

<p>What are your firm’s primary areas of practice?</p>	<p>We work exclusively with not-for-profit organizations seeking to improve the lives of the disempowered and disenfranchised populations. We work in the areas of Fatherhood, Healthy Relationships, Positive youth development/teen pregnancy prevention, economic development, workforce programs, and reentry populations.</p>
<p>How many Better Together Fund projects that were awarded funding have you been involved with?</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Please list all Better Together Fund projects that were awarded funding that you have been involved with. You can list a project as anonymous if it is confidential.</p>	<p>Serve West Dallas - Step Forward Program</p>
<p>Briefly describe 1-3 examples of restructuring negotiations with which you have been involved; and/or examples of projects where you have helped facilitate, explore, or implement a formal collaboration as defined by the Better Together Fund.</p>	<p>We have been deeply involved with Serve West Dallas and its 11 partners in the Step Forward Career Pathways Project - helping it secure a planning grant and facilitating consensus and agreement between partner. For a non-profit called the Social Innovation Laboratory, we have established collaborations between the non-profit and state agencies in Kansas and Oklahoma (two different projects) that forged formal alliances and collaborative projects between Family and Consumer Science teachers and the non-profit.</p>
<p>How would you describe the range of diversity reflected in your firm?</p>	<p>MER’s mission, culture, values, and behavioral norms reflect our organization’s commitment to operationalizing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Though our company is not female-owned, we are female-led, with over 60% women comprising our executive team and over 80% our overall staff. By fostering an environment of trust and accountability, we have built a culture of equity and inclusiveness where all staff are given the opportunity to express ideas, concerns and perspectives with authenticity and without fear. Our staff of diverse experts</p>

	<p>bring a wide range of benefits to the company, that include increased creativity, varied perspectives and improved innovation. Our staff is composed of individuals who are geographically diverse, represent several countries as first-generation immigrants, speak multiple languages, and 27% are LGBTQ+. Team selection is a critical step in ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion, and our team’s varied set of cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds allows us to connect with our clients and their communities on a personal level.</p>
<p>Please list all nonprofit issue areas within which you have worked as a paid employee or consultant.</p>	<p>Homelessness, Mental health, Substance Use, Emergency Services, Child Welfare, Public Health, Communicable disease, HIV/AIDs, Hunger / Food insecurity, public assistance / TANF, SNAP, Workforce Development, Community Development, Fatherhood, Healthy Relationships, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Positive Youth Development, Reentry Populations and services.</p>
<p>Please provide any other information you feel would aid in understanding the value the firm can bring to Better Together Fund grantees and any specific expertise you have in a specific BTF grant phase(s).</p>	<p>Midwest Evaluation and Research started as a Program Evaluation firm but quickly expanded to provide the services that our partners needed to be more impactful and influential. We now provide a wide array of services from strategic planning, facilitation, board and staff training, grant identification and grant writing, data management, data system development and all the services and capacities of a research and program evaluation firm. We help our clients do better, form better partnerships, and demonstrate and document their impacts. We have hands-on experience with all phases of program start-up and development including need assessments and feasibility assessments, planning processes, implementation (including CQI and formative</p>

	evaluation) and large scale replication and adaptation.
--	---

CONSULTANT #1 DETAILS	
Name	Matthew Shepherd, Ph.D
Email Address	matt.shepherd@midwestevaluation.com
Education (list only name of school, major, and degree)	Wichita State University, Clinical / Community Psychology, Doctorate Fort Hays State University, Clinical Psychology, Masters Degree
Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed)	Midwest Evaluation and Research, CEO 2015-Present ICF International, Fellow 2011-2015 James Bell Associates, Researcher 2008-2011 Share Our Strength, Program Manager 2007-2008 United State Senate, Congressional Fellow 2006-2007 Wichita State University 2002-2006, Research Professor Kansas Health Institute, 1999-2002, Research Scientist Wichita State University, 1994-1999, Research Associate Connect Care, 1993-1994, House Manager St Francis Academy, 1991-1993, Primary Counselor
Awards or Certificates	Civic Health Hero, Kansas Health Foundation 2018 Babson College Scholar, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program, 2018 SNAP E&T Fellow, USDA 2017 Certificate of Outstanding Achievement, ICF 2016 American Evaluation Association, Learning Circle Fellow 2009 AAAS / APA Congressional Science and Technology Fellow, 2006 Kansas Public Health Association Special Services Award, 2002 Todd E Husted Memorial Dissertation Award for the best Dissertation in Mental Health Services, 1999
Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served)	Social Innovation Laboratory, 2016 - Present

CONSULTANT #2 DETAILS	
Name	
Email Address	

Education (list only name of school, major, and degree)	
Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed)	
Awards or Certificates	
Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served)	

CONSULTANT #3 DETAILS	
Name	
Email Address	
Education (list only name of school, major, and degree)	
Employment History (list only name of employer, title, and dates employed)	
Awards or Certificates	
Nonprofit Board Membership (list only name of organization and the dates served)	

CLIENT REFERENCE #1	
Name of Organization	Serve West Dallas
Please provide the name(s) of other organizations involved in the collaboration or negotiations.	Anthem Strong Families
Client Reference – Contact Name	Scott Hanson
Client Reference – Contact Email Address	scott@servewestdallas.org
Client Reference – Phone Number	901-692-2782
Please briefly describe the engagement.	Served as a consultant and evaluator for the Step Forward Career Pathways Project. Assisted with strategic planning, training, and determining program impact.

CLIENT REFERENCE #2	
Name of Organization	Social Innovation Laboratory
Please provide the name(s) of other organizations involved in the collaboration or negotiations.	Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Kansas Chapter. Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education



Client Reference – Contact Name	Will Rapp
Client Reference – Contact Email Address	Will.Rapp@socialinnovationlab.org
Client Reference – Phone Number	316-990-5139
Please briefly describe the engagement.	Developed a collaborative program to teach Family and Consumer Science Teachers to provide evidenced-based curriculum in a school setting to promote positive youth development.

Please provide any additional client references.	
--	--