PUBLIC CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EARLY ADOPTERS PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROOTS OF HOPE COMMUNITY SUICIDE PREVENTION MODEL

Background:

Roots of Hope is an evidence informed community suicide prevention model that supports communities to build capacity to prevent suicide. Currently, 8 communities across Canada are participating in a research demonstration project to implement the model and evaluate its outcomes. Roots of Hope includes three components: a community-led approach to suicide prevention; a whole-population target audience; and activities in all 5 pillars of suicide prevention. The 5 pillars include: specialized supports, training, awareness, means safety, and research

5 Pillars in Roots of Hope:
- Specialized Supports: prevention, crisis, and post-crisis services such as peer support, support groups (including self-help), workplace interventions, and coordinated planning and access to services.
- Training: training and learning opportunities for healthcare providers such as physicians and nurse practitioners as well as community gatekeepers such as first responders, human resource staff and teachers.
- Awareness: locally driven campaigns to promote mental health awareness (posters, brochures, social media etc.) and collaboration with the media.
- Means Safety: identification of the methods or places where a high number of suicides occur and implementation of measures to ensure safe access to them. For example, building barriers on bridges or at railway crossings, protocols for medication access and more.
- Research: setting of research priorities, surveillance and monitoring and evaluation of implementation activities.

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is ready to launch the next phase of implementation for the Roots of Hope model. The *Early Adopters* phase will bring communities across the country together to support implementation activities in all 5 pillars. Using a community-of-practice model, Early Adopters will have access to supports from the Mental Health Commission of Canada in the areas of project planning and implementation, promising practice exchange, collaborative problem solving, and supports for implementation activities.

Benefits for being an Early Adopter community:
- Be the first to learn from the implementation journey of the 8 communities engaged in the research demonstration project
- Access to tools and resource specifically developed to support the implementation of the Roots of Hope model
- Collaborate at the national level to share learnings and promising practices within the community-of-practice model
- Pilot new suicide prevention tools and resources created by the Mental Health Commission of Canada and other partners and collaborators

- Be a champion of leading suicide prevention practices in Canada

What are Early Adopters?

Early Adopters are communities and community organizations that would like to implement the Roots of Hope model before the completion of the current research demonstration project. Early Adopters understand the potential benefits of the Roots of Hope model and are eager to use it to support suicide prevention in their communities. Early Adopter communities will be able to implement activities under the Roots of Hope model while also participating in knowledge sharing opportunities with other Early Adopter communities.

Expectations for Early Adopters:
- A financial commitment of up to $2M in funding spread over a 5-year period to be applied to implementing suicide prevention activities in your local community. The financial commitment can be comprised of core funding, fundraising, and in-kind contributions. Note: there is no cost to participate in the project. All committed funds will be directly invested within the community to support programs, services, research, and evaluation
- A commitment to sharing evaluation results with the Mental Health Commission of Canada to support future national scale-up of the Roots of Hope model.
- A commitment to share tools, products, and processes that are developed within the community to support similar implementation activities in other Early Adopter communities and build capacity in suicide prevention in the Canadian context.

For more detailed information about the supports the Mental Health Commission of Canada will provide to Early Adopters communities please refer to the document What are Roots of Hope Early Adopters?

Assessment Criteria:

All complete expressions of interest will be reviewed by the Mental Health Commission of Canada for potential acceptance into the Early Adopters project. Communities that demonstrate many of the following components, as well as an overall readiness to implement the Roots of Hope model, could potentially be seen as strong applicants:

- **Geographic region and population:** Suicide prevention can be complex, and many factors will influence the success of initiatives. In order to better understand the impacts of the Roots of Hope model at a national level, the MHCC would welcome the opportunity to partner with communities in provinces and territories not currently participating in the Roots of Hope research demonstration project.
- **Populations of interest:** The current Roots of Hope research demonstration project involves communities with a diverse representation of high risk and vulnerable populations for suicide. In partnership with Early Adopters, the MHCC is hoping to better understand how the Roots of Hope model impacts other populations that may not be currently represented. A description of these populations can be found in the document What are Roots of Hope Early Adopters? which you can access by emailing rootsofhope@mentalhealthcommission.ca

Community Readiness and Current Capacity:

Communities that have expressed a need for coordinated approaches to suicide prevention are more likely to be successful in implementing the Roots of Hope model. Demonstrating dedicated resources to suicide prevention and community capacity building indicates that initiatives implemented under the model are more likely to be successful. While it is helpful for communities to have a demonstrated history of suicide prevention campaigns and initiatives, it is not necessary for participation in the Early Adopters phase of Roots of Hope. The most impactful factors include leadership support for the model, community infrastructure in prevention, intervention and postvention, and community stakeholder buy-in for suicide prevention activities.

In addition to the above criteria, communities must demonstrate financial commitment to implementation activities in the Early Adopters project within their expression of interest.

Application Procedure and Closing Date:

Interested community organizations must submit all materials for an expression of interest by the closing date. A contact person must be identified on the expression of interest and this information must include the person's role and their organization. If multiple organizations will be supporting one expression of interest, only one contact person is required to submit the documents.

The expression of interest must include:
- The completed expression of interest form (attached at end)
- Supporting documents to demonstrate financial commitment to Early Adopters activities
- Any supporting documents to provide additional context about the information in the expression of interest form.

CLOSING DATE: Expressions of interest will be accepted via email until 11:59pm EDT October 30 2020

Submission procedure:
Please submit all documents as PDF via email. The subject line must read: **Expression of Interest Early Adopters [COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION, PROVINCE/TERRITORY].** If you need to send multiple emails because of file attachments, please indicate in the subject line. Emails can be addressed to:

nrewari@mentalhealthcommission.ca
Nitika Rewari
Manager, Prevention and Promotion Initiatives
Mental Health Commission of Canada

Additional Information About Roots of Hope:

If you have any questions about Early Adopters or the Roots of Hope model, please contact Ryan Walsh, Program Manager at rwalsh@mentalhealthcommission.ca or visit our website at www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/roots-hope

Expression of Interest

Host Organization

Name:	
Email:	Phone:
Role:	
Organization:	
Please describe your organization (1-3 sentences)	

Community Description Please attach any supporting documents to your email

Community: Including Province	
Population:	
Geography: Check all that apply	☐ Urban ☐ Rural ☐ Remote
Please describe your community (1-2 paragraphs)	

Community Description Continued

Priority Populations: See Early Adopters overview for additional information	
Rationale: Please describe why you have selected this community to participate as an Early Adopter (1-2 paragraphs)	

Community Readiness Please attach any supporting documents to your email

Partners: Please list existing stakeholders who are likely to support initiatives implemented under the Roots of Hope model	
Facilitators: Please list community strengths that will support Roots of Hope activities	

Community Readiness Continued

Existing Initiatives: Please describe existing suicide prevention initiatives taking place in the community	

Community Coordinator: Please indicate if you already have a Community Coordinator or equivalent position	
☐ Yes ☐ No	
Title:	
Organization:	
Responsibilities: Please describe any duties required of this position external to Early Adopters Work	

Funding Confirmation Please attach any supporting documents to your email

Please describe how you plan to fund implementation and evaluation activities as an Early Adopter under the Roots of Hope model. Include information on in-kind contributions to the project as well. The Roots of Hope model suggests a funding commitment of $2M over 5 years, including in-kind contributions, is most effective for full implementation of activities in each of the 5 pillars. (1-2 paragraphs)