

For Immediate Release
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Foundation Seeking Projects to Transform the Youth Mental Health Workforce in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO – October 16, 2025 – In response to the pressing need for a stronger youth mental health workforce, the Viragh Family Foundation has launched a bold new initiative aimed at tackling this urgent issue in the St. Louis region. With a commitment of up to \$10 million, the foundation is now accepting letters of inquiry (LOIs) for innovative, sustainable solutions that address the shortage of mental health professionals serving youth. This transformative investment seeks to disrupt entrenched systems, address longstanding inequities, and inspire lasting, systemic change, ultimately improving access to mental health care for youth ages 5–24 in under-resourced communities.

Project Priorities Guided by Community Insights

Throughout its multigenerational work with nonprofits and community organizations, the Viragh Family Foundation (VFF) began to notice a recurring theme among those serving their communities. Leaders, experts, and community members pointed to a clear connection: that unmet mental health needs are a major driver of many of the issues at the core of VFF's mission. In response to this consistent feedback, and with a commitment to uncovering impactful, community-driven solutions, the foundation formed a Mental Health Committee to further explore the systems of this crisis. Over the course of a year-long systems-thinking study, the committee gathered insights from a wide range of stakeholders, including community leaders, mental health professionals, families, and youth directly affected by the workforce shortage. Through a combination of surveys, task force discussions, and focus groups, the research illuminated five critical challenges related to the youth mental health workforce shortage.

These areas demand immediate attention to drive meaningful change and increase the ability of youth to access providers who are representative of the community they serve.

- **Advocacy and Policy Reform:** Empowering change at federal, state, local, and institutional levels.
- **Debt and Pay Inequities:** Addressing financial burdens and ensuring competitive wages for youth mental health professionals.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** Promoting culturally responsive care through inclusive policies and practices and programing.
- **Education and Training:** Expanding education, training, and early-career opportunities to build the pipeline of well-equipped providers.
- **Workforce Mental Wellbeing:** Mitigating burnout and attrition to sustain a resilient workforce.

Call for Innovation and Collaboration

The foundation invites organizations with bold, visionary ideas to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) by January 15, 2026. Priority will be given to initiatives that:

- Increase or safeguard availability of services to under-resourced geographies and populations.
- Address gaps in therapeutic modalities, age ranges, languages, or services.
- Result in changes to policies, practices or systems that eliminate barriers to enter the field and/or increase retention of quality providers.

Eligible applicants include nonprofits, community groups, public institutions, organizations with 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsorships, and other entities doing work that aligns with the foundation's charitable purpose. Each organization may submit up to three proposals. Details on eligibility and submission requirements are available at www.stlyouthmentalhealth.org.

Application Details:

The application period opens October 16, 2025, and closes January 15, 2026. Applicants may submit up to three LOIs addressing one or more priority area(s). Complete details on eligibility and submission requirements can be viewed at www.stlyouthmentalhealth.org.

About the Viragh Family Foundation – Philanthropy with Purpose

The Viragh Family Foundation (VFF) has existed as a family-led organization for over 20 years and is dedicated to improving lives by addressing evolving societal needs and fostering strategic partnerships. The work of VFF has always been to focus support on critical needs, improvements, or causes; in recent years, with the intention to shift outcomes in deeply rooted systemic issues, the foundation has come to understand that while redistributing large portions of these funds to the community, they also needed to engage and encourage other community, civic, and philanthropic partners to disrupt the status quo.

With this focus on youth mental health, VFF aims to expand access to quality care, particularly in marginalized and underserved communities. This commitment reflects a belief in philanthropy as a catalyst for systemic change, equity, and community well-being.

By centering the voices of underserved communities, this latest investment seeks to:

- Drive long-term improvements in youth mental health services.
- Inspire other funders to deploy resources deliberately and strategically.
- Challenge outdated systems, including philanthropic models, to build a more equitable mental health workforce.

Viragh Family Foundation Details:

For all other grant purposes, the Viragh Family Foundation accepts grants on an invitation only basis. For more information about the Viragh Family Foundation, the LOI process, or media inquiries, please contact Casey Chamberlain at viragh@intentionalphilanthropy.com.

End of Release