



FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

## Hearing Voices Research & Development Fund Regional Trainings - Request for Proposals

The Fund is beginning a 3-year training and research project to bring Hearing Voices peer-support groups to communities across the United States, and to research the mechanisms by which these groups work. The project will train more than 100 facilitators in 5 regions and create a stronger regional and local infrastructure of Hearing Voices peer-support groups across the USA. Once a greater number of groups are up and running, the project will conduct a comprehensive study whose goal will be to identify the factors promoting effectiveness of these groups.

Proposals are now welcomed from individuals and organizations who would like to be selected as one of the 5 project regions across the USA where the trainings will take place. (Participation in the research phase of the project will be fully voluntary, regardless of whether or not someone has participated in any of these trainings.)

### Goals of the Training Project

The project is aimed at creating opportunities for individuals and organizations who want to establish Hearing Voices groups and local networks in their own communities and regions, especially in areas where such resources are sparse or non-existent. Successful applicants will collaborate with our technical support team to train up to 25 people to create and maintain co-facilitated Hearing Voices peer-support groups, to develop a local network to support the ongoing work and growth of these groups, and to facilitate community dialogue around voice hearing. The training has a 3-day format. The trainers will also participate in a free community forum held during their time in that region, so that a broader public can learn about the HVN approach. While proposals from all parts of the USA will be considered, it is acknowledged that HVN has a firm representation in the Northeast. Therefore priority will be placed on regions where hearing voices peer-support groups are less prevalent.

Proposals will be evaluated in terms of the applicant's ability to mobilize support and create a structure or network using assets specific to their community or region and which will encourage the ongoing development of the Hearing Voices approach in that area. Your own creativity and knowledge of your region should be reflected in the application.

**Deadline for Proposals: June 1, 2015**

Applicants are welcome to consult with project staff in advance of submitting an application; contact Caroline White, Coordinator, at 413.539.5941 x316 or [Caroline@westernmassrlc.org](mailto:Caroline@westernmassrlc.org).

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**1. Does our group have to be affiliated with a mental health provider?**

No. We welcome applications from peer and community organizations or from individuals who want to work together within a region.

**2. What priorities will govern the evaluation of applications?**

Applications that provide evidence of already-existing collaborations between groups of individuals or between mental health organizations and peer-run community groups will be prioritized. Proposing an innovative approach to public outreach and building the network in that region will also increase the likelihood of an application being selected.

**3. Do all of the Hearing Voices peer-support groups that are created as a result of this training have to commit to participating in the research component of the project?**

No. After the training phase is completed, the research protocol will be designed in collaboration with regional networks and Hearing Voices groups around the country, and then all groups in the USA – those created as a result of these trainings and those already existing – will be asked whether they would like to participate in the research process. All participation will be entirely voluntary.

**4. Is ongoing support offered after the training?**

Yes. The project team will collaborate with groups and individuals within the 5 regions to set up networks of support to ensure that groups can thrive over the long run.

**5. Will participants be charged a fee for the training?**

No. The Hearing Voices Research and Development Fund is committed to involving as many individuals and groups as possible in Hearing Voices trainings and all the events sponsored by this project will be offered free of charge.

## RFP Instructions & Guidelines

Please review the instructions carefully BEFORE completing the application.

STEP 1: Answer each question completely (failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed).

STEP 2: Please be legible, clear and concise.

STEP 3: Submit one copy of your completed proposal to Caroline White, Coordinator (Caroline@westernmassrlc.org) or to Hearing Voices Training Project, 187 High Street, Suite 202, Holyoke, MA 01040 **by Friday, June 1.**

# Proposal

## Contact information for applicant or lead organization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Skype: \_\_\_\_\_

In what region are you located?

\_\_\_ Northeast (MA, ME, NH, NY, etc.)

\_\_\_ Southeast (KY, NC, FL, GA, etc.)

\_\_\_ Midwest (OH, IL, IN, MI, etc.)

\_\_\_ Southwest (NM, AZ, TX, etc.)

\_\_\_ West (NV, MT, WY, etc.)

\_\_\_ Pacific Northwest (WA, OR, etc.)

\_\_\_ California (specify Northern or Southern)

The following questions are designed to help you think through the process of bringing a facilitators' training to your community.

### Part I: Tell us a little about yourself and your region of the USA:

1. To help us understand more about your background and experience, please tell us how you have been connected so far to the Hearing Voices movement (please check all that apply):

\_\_\_ I have been involved in a number of ways (facilitating groups, offering training and/or research, etc.)

\_\_\_ I offer trainings on hearing voices, hearing voices group facilitation, or related topics

\_\_\_ I co-facilitate a hearing voices group (where? open to whom?)

\_\_\_ I am involved in research related to the HVN approach

\_\_\_ I have attended HV trainings and/or groups (please describe)

\_\_\_ I have read about the HV approach

\_\_\_ I have attended a conference presentation on the HV approach (please describe)

\_\_\_ I am only just learning about the HV approach

\_\_\_ Other (please specify)

2. If you are applying as an individual, please tell us how you identify:

\_\_\_ I am someone who hears (or has heard) voices and/or has had other unusual experiences

\_\_\_ I work in a peer role, although I do not personally hear voices or have other unusual experiences

\_\_\_ I work primarily in a clinical role

\_\_\_ I am a family member or friend of someone who hears voices/has other unusual experiences

\_\_\_ I identify as an ally to the movement

\_\_\_ Other (please specify)

3. If you are applying as a group or an organization, please describe your mission and membership.
4. Why are you interested in having a Hearing Voices peer-support group facilitation training come to your region?
5. In what kinds of contexts do you hope to establish HVN groups and what sorts of supports are currently offered there for voice hearers and their families/allies?
6. How do you see the HVN approach contributing to a shift in perspective and/or to the ways that people are offered support in your community?
7. If you are in a provider role, how would you partner with people who hear voices in the development of your group/network? If you are someone who hears voices yourself or are part of a peer-to-peer group, how would you continue to expand your reach to new voice hearers in your area?

**Part II:** Tell us about how you would be able to support a Hearing Voices Facilitators' training in your region:

1. Who would you plan to involve in this undertaking locally? Who are the stakeholders?
2. Do you have access to a training facility that is (preferably) not associated with traditional mental health offerings? Does it have audio/visual capabilities and internet access? What costs would be involved in holding the training there? Please describe.
3. Is the location you are considering close to public transportation? Fully accessible? Near a national airport?
4. What sort of outreach methods would you plan to use to attract training participants? Do they include specific outreach to voice hearers? Community-based peer-to-peer efforts? Please describe.
5. What time(s) of the year would you hope to offer this training and why? Are there specific constraints in your region that would make training problematic at certain times of the year?
6. If you have access to other financial resources, how would you plan to use them to complement this training opportunity?
7. What geographic area would your network cover? Is it considered "rural," "urban," etc. or some combination of these?
8. How would you involve the broader community to support the training and to make the HVN approach better known in your region?
9. What skills, strengths, experience, and/or other resources would you plan to draw upon that haven't been covered in other questions?

**Part III:** If your proposal involves the creation of Hearing Voices peer-support groups within an already-existing center or organization, please enclose a short letter of support from the Manager or Director confirming their interest in having such groups set up within that organization.

Thank you for completing this application! We look forward to hearing about your ideas and the work that you are doing.