



## Field Work: Innovative ideas. Rural roots.

Field Work is [the LOR Foundation's](#) search for innovative answers to persistent problems that plague rural communities. Our goal with each Field Work research initiative is to get money quickly into the hands of the people on the ground—in communities where LOR works or in other rural parts of the region—who have innovative ideas.

### **Field Work 2025: Mental Health**

About 20 percent of people in rural America [live with](#) mental illness. This is a difficult issue nationally, and rural America is particularly challenged by a lack of access to mental health resources and specialty care. These communities are looking for help—and in the towns LOR works with, local people are often providing it. In the past few years, more than 100 locals in communities where LOR works have designed and led creative ways to address this issue.

We know more ideas that address this persistent challenge are out there. So our 2025 Field Work effort seeks to uncover innovative ideas that improve mental health in rural communities—ideas we hope can be shared and replicated in other rural places. To do that, LOR invites people with creative ideas about how to improve mental health and social well-being in rural places to apply for between \$1,000 and \$25,000 in funding.

LOR will begin accepting applications on our website at [lorfoundation.org/fieldwork2025](https://lorfoundation.org/fieldwork2025) on May 12. Applications close June 6. LOR will select projects for funding in June 2025, and projects must be completed within a year of approval.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include individuals, local governments, hospitals, schools, nonprofits, for-profit organizations, chambers of commerce, libraries, and other organizations in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, or Wyoming. Mental health practitioners are welcome to apply as are service-minded community members who have innovative solutions.

## Project Areas

Applications must identify how the project will improve mental health and/or social well-being, using an innovative approach, in at least one of the three areas:

- Preventing and responding to mental health concerns
- Increasing access to and/or awareness of mental health and social well-being services
- Deepening meaningful social connections for the specific purpose of improving mental health outcomes in a community

## Innovation

We are interested in projects that establish new mental health and/or social well-being services in rural communities as well as those that enhance current services. Projects may be innovative in many ways: from how they engage residents to where they take place or even who is leading them.

## Key Dates

- Webinars
  - Thursday, May 8 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. (*Mountain Time*): [Register](#)
  - Friday, May 9 from noon to 1:00 p.m. (*Mountain Time*): [Register](#)
- Office Hours
  - [Register](#) for a 20-minute meeting with LOR staff to discuss a potential application during the following windows (*all times Mountain Time*):
    - Thursday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. to noon
    - Tuesday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
    - Wednesday, May 21, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
    - Thursday, May 29, 10:00 a.m. to noon

## Website and contact information

- Learn more at <http://lorfoundation.org/fieldwork2025>
- Bill Jaeger, Strategic Initiatives Officer, [bill@lorfoundation.org](mailto:bill@lorfoundation.org)
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