



The Sozosei Foundation Awards Over \$2 Million to Nonprofits Working to Decriminalize Mental Illness

New grants represent Foundation's continued commitment to community oriented, data driven and impactful organizations pursuing innovative solutions

Princeton, NJ, June 20, 2024 — [The Sozosei Foundation](#), a philanthropic arm of Otsuka, announced its Spring 2024 grantee partners. This round of grants will award \$2,169,000 to 36 organizations to increase access to mental healthcare to end the inappropriate use of the carceral system as treatment for mental illness.

“All but two of the grants in this cycle represent the continuation of funding to impactful organizations using tools including advocacy, litigation, arts and communications to decriminalize mental illness. The cycle also includes promising practices from rural and urban communities across the nation where innovation is catalyzing new pathways to ensure mental health treatment is available in communities – not just behind the walls of the carceral system in the US,” said Melissa M. Beck, executive director of The Sozosei Foundation.

As a solution-agnostic philanthropy, Sozosei Foundation funding falls into one of four categories: Access to Care, Arts and Communications, Research, and Scaling What Works. The Sozosei Foundation is committed to funding evidence-based programs that promote data collection and analysis to drive best practices to decriminalize mental illness.

More than half of the organizations anticipate creating national impact. Recipients represent organizations with diverse strategies in the effort to decriminalize mental illness, including:

- **Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky**, for the Sycamore Project to decriminalize mental illness by increasing access to mental healthcare, legal services and the arts in Eastern Kentucky
- **Healthy Minds Policy Initiative**, to support continued progress towards increasing access to mental healthcare in Oklahoma
- **MindSite News**, to continue its digital journalism dedicated to reporting on mental health in America, with a focus on its monthly newsletter Diagnosis: Injustice
- **Path Forward**, a coalition of diverse stakeholders advocating for policies that will expand equitable access to mental health treatment

The complete list of grantees can be found [here](#).

To remain updated on the work of The Sozosei Foundation, follow on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Threads](#).



About the Sozosei Foundation

The Sozosei Foundation was established in 2019 as a philanthropic arm of Otsuka. The name Sozosei means “creativity” in Japanese. Our Japanese heritage is manifest in the Foundation’s fundamental values and day-to-day operations. The Foundation’s primary focus is to increase access to mental healthcare in order to eliminate the inappropriate use of jails and prisons for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness in the United States.