

## Behavioral Health Services 2020 Grant Program Overview

The Larimer County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department is the result of the 2018 voter-approved ballot initiative which directs a sales and use tax of 0.25% to support behavioral health needs in Larimer County. The ballot language requires that funding generated will be used to support for the following Mental/Behavioral Health care purposes:

- Provide preventative, early identification, intervention, support, and treatment services for youth, adults, families and senior citizens, either directly or indirectly, who are residents of Larimer County through in-person and other delivery methods, which may include tele-services, community based services and other service options and;
- Acquire, construct, improve, maintain, lease, remodel, staff, equip, and operate new and/or existing mental/behavioral health facilities;

The total fund amount for 2020 is \$2.5 million with \$115,545 directed to the Crisis Response Fund, \$50,000 directed to the Gary A. Darling Grant, and the remaining \$2.3 million directed back into Larimer County communities through the 2020 Grant Program.

### Funding Priorities

The following priority areas were defined by the BH Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the BH Policy Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Part of the application evaluation will be to assess how strongly the proposed effort aligns with the funding priorities. For this reason, applicants are encouraged to select only one funding priority to address.

- 1. COVID-19 Crisis Recovery & Outreach Efforts:** While the Crisis Response Fund covered immediate Larimer County Behavioral Health needs due to the COVID-19 health crisis, additional needs are expected as the situation goes on. This funding area will help organizations meet additional critical behavioral health needs that have arisen from the current public health crisis. Those needs include:
  - Meeting increased demand for new and existing behavioral health services
  - Adapting delivery models to offer virtual care/services
  - Community awareness and outreach efforts
  - Efforts to increase behavioral health care access and quality for impacted populations



- 2. Mental Illness & Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Programming:** This area includes programs that focus on preventing or intervening in mental illness or substance use disorders to provide relief and/or manage symptoms to the point where other recovery strategies can be used. It also includes raising awareness of substance use and mental health issues and implementing prevention strategies. Example Larimer County needs from the Technical Advisory Committee:

  - Strategic Prevention Framework training and implementation
  - Social connection activities such as mentoring, peer supports, parent/educator education, support groups and networks
  - Medication Assisted Treatment
  - Trauma Informed Care training and implementation
  - Telehealth and other alternative treatment modalities
  - Public outreach and awareness campaigns
  
- 3. Screening, Early Identification, & Intervention:** Screening, early identification, and intervention are actions to support those with behavioral health needs before they reach a crisis or when recovery becomes more difficult. This includes targeting important risk or protective factors and offering options that have been shown to remove harmful factors or increase helpful factors. Example Larimer County needs from the Technical Advisory Committee:

  - Advanced psychiatric directives
  - Training primary care and mental health providers on appropriate behavioral health-specific assessments, referrals, and guidelines
  - Training on and implementation of de-escalation strategies
  - Workforce development in providing services to specific populations or at specific points of system entry
  
- 4. Care Coordination & Responsivity:** Care coordination involves bringing together various providers and information systems to coordinate behavioral health services, patient needs, and information to help better achieve the goals of treatment and care. Example Larimer County needs from the Technical Advisory Committee:

  - System-agnostic care coordination (provider/insurer neutral)
  - Standardized assessment and interview methods across systems/providers
  - Interdisciplinary teams for complex care coordination
  - Promotion of information sharing/integration between providers, levels of care, technologies, etc.
  - Implementation of care compacts
  - Peer navigators



## Eligibility

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply for the 2020 BHS Grants. For details and a list of exceptions please review our [Eligibility Criteria](#):

- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations
- State, local government or other governmental entities
- Social Enterprises
- Fiscally-Sponsored Organizations

## To Apply

We ask that grant applications be submitted electronically through our [website](#). Application Links can be found on the Applicant Resource Page. Applying online is easy and accelerates the processing time. The online application form will walk you through the submission process in detail. We encourage early submissions.

## Applicant Workshop

BHS will host an online workshop for applicants that will walk-through the 2020 Grant Program application process. The workshop will be offered:

Wednesday, June 17 at 10am  
Thursday, June 18 at 2pm

## Deadline

To be included for consideration for the 2020 grant funding, BHS must receive applications and required documents by **5:00 pm on Friday July 31, 2020**.

## Review Process

Funding decisions will be based upon how well each prospective applicant can demonstrate:

- **Alignment** — The proposed project or program is strongly aligned with our funding priorities.
- **Capacity** — The applicant demonstrates appropriate knowledge, resources, and capacity to effectively implement proposed programs and services.
- **Impact** — The proposed program or project will have a significant impact on desired behavioral health outcomes in Larimer County. The potential impact is effectively demonstrated through a solid theory of change and evidence-based practices.
- **Context**— The proposed program or project is uniquely and strategically designed to meet an existing gap in behavioral health services. The project fits within both the larger community context and the organization's internal portfolio.



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### **Funding Requests**

- The minimum amount of funding an organization may apply for is \$10,000.
- Organizations cannot ask for more than 25% of their total operating budget or maximum of \$250,000.

### **Funding Decisions**

Once the application period is closed, the review process will take approximately six to eight weeks. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in September 2020.

### **Reporting**

Grant funding must be expended from October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021 for the applied for programs/initiatives. Grantees will be required to submit an interim report and a final report on how grant funds have been expended and the impact achieved.

### **Questions?**

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