

## **Mental Health Competitive Grant Opportunity**

### **2023 Bidders Conference Q&A**

The Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona (BCBSAZ) Foundation for Community & Health Advancement is accepting mental health competitive grant applications through March 6, 2023, for programs and applied research that expands statewide resources, reduces stigma, and connects people to care.

Thank you to all who attended our Bidders Conference on February 13, 2023. We are addressing the questions not answered during the conference due to time limitations. Any new questions may be sent to [info@azbluefoundation.org](mailto:info@azbluefoundation.org).

#### **Project-Specific Questions**

##### **Can you apply for funding for incentives for participation in the mental health service?**

Incentives are an allowable program expense as part of a larger mental health program.

##### **Our program offers financial assistance to those who are eligible to address immediate needs/solve crises. Is this an acceptable use of grant dollars?**

Funding for incentives or financial assistance can be incorporated into an application and budget. We recommend clearly outlining how the incentives or financial assistance will be tracked and how it will impact the health outcomes detailed in the application.

##### **What are examples of applied research?**

We invite applications that describe how applied research, related to mental health, will surface practical solutions to real-world challenges. Examples of applied research projects may include, but are not limited to:

- A study measuring the impact of attending an after-school program on youth mental health outcomes
- A study investigating how exposure to different types of social media messages impacts feelings of anxiety and depression among high school youth
- A study assessing health outcomes among seniors who regularly attend adult day programs to reduce social isolation

##### **I have an educational teen support program; however, it is not run through the school and is not a nonprofit. Is this even a grant I can apply for? If not, are there other opportunities coming for new programs like this?**

Only nonprofit organizations and academic institutions are eligible for Foundation grant funding.

## **Budget Questions**

### **Are audited financial statements required from applicants, particularly smaller organizations?**

The BCBSAZ Foundation for Community & Health Advancement requires quarterly status reports that include questions regarding budget and spend to date.

### **What was the average award amount last year?**

The maximum amount available to request is \$125,000. In the 2022 competitive mental health grant cycle, the average amount awarded was \$102,357 across 12 organizations.