



Request for Proposals

Background

Sand Hill Foundation is driven by optimism about the resilience and hopefulness of the human spirit. Our grantmaking reflects a deep commitment to the people and the place we call home, focusing our funding locally in San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County. Through our Health & Opportunity portfolio, we fund organizations that support local families as they navigate life's pathways towards health and wellness, educational opportunity, and economic stability.

Holistic support for young people on the Peninsula has been a priority for Sand Hill Foundation since 1995, with over \$30 million in funding provided for physical, emotional, and mental health programs for children and families. Inspired by this history and informed by the growing mental health needs in our community, the foundation launched the Wellness Partnership in 2018. Our initial round of grants are now in their second year of important work building stronger systems of care. We are thrilled to invite new partnerships to join the ongoing effort and have outlined below our vision, overview, and the eligibility requirements to apply.

Vision

We believe if the resources to support prevention and early interventions that reduce risk factors and build protective factors were more coordinated, healing-centered, accessible, and integrated into a variety of youth development engagements, more young people would receive the appropriate level of mental health support when they need it and experience optimal health and wellness.

Overview

The Wellness Partnership investments are expected to result in timely access to prevention and early intervention programs that are more streamlined, coordinated, and both culturally- and trauma-responsive for young people (ages 11 to 24 years old) in San Mateo and northern Santa Clara counties. With this goal in mind, grants will be issued to cross-sector collaborations of three or more agencies working together. Grant applications must outline why collaboration is necessary for success and explain how a viable cross-sector solution will be achieved. Grants will be issued to a single lead agency responsible for the oversight and coordination of the proposed partnership between three or more agencies.

The Wellness Partnership is built on two fundamental tenets in service to young people and their families:

1. **Prevention and early intervention** promote healthy development, healing, and resilience.
2. **Cross-sector collaborative partnerships** are necessary to build a more culturally-responsive and streamlined comprehensive system of care.

We recognize these concepts can mean many things to many people. With this in mind, we have outlined what they mean for Sand Hill Foundation in greater detail.

Prevention Support & Early Intervention

Through both research-based and anecdotal evidence, we know young people in our community are facing increased stressors and expanding feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression. In San Mateo County, more than 70% of adolescents reported ongoing feelings of depression, nervousness or emotional stress, while the rate of mental health related hospitalizations for young people statewide has increased 50% since 2007.¹ We believe early action will not only prevent long-term suffering, but also promote the development of positive cognitive, social, and emotional health.

Our approach to Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) draws heavily upon the definitions and guidelines outlined in the Mental Health Services Act, including an emphasis on culturally-responsive collaborations between service providers, families and caregivers, and young people. Priority will be given to partnerships that intentionally and authentically engage their anticipated target audience in the development and implementation of the proposed solution.

Prevention & Early Interventions should:

- Reduce risk factors or stressors;
- Build protective factors;
- Increase resiliency through supportive, interpersonal connections;
- Promote recognition and culturally-supportive response to early signs and symptoms of mental health challenges

Collaboration

We believe in the power of collaboration to leverage resources, talent, and intellectual capital to tackle this pressing issue. Responding to mental health needs early and appropriately, requires additional training, time, and resources. It also requires functioning lines of communication and support reaching across the places young people are from classrooms to after-school programs, from healthcare centers to sports teams, etc. In recent years, these places and systems our young people turn to for support are overwhelmed, fragmented, and under resourced. In a recent study ²of the mental health of San Mateo Area teens, key findings included:

- Schools are experiencing earlier onset, increased prevalence, and greater complexity of student mental health needs.
- Resources to address student mental health needs vary across [systems], including schools and districts, primarily focus on crisis management, and rest heavily on individual responses rather than a comprehensive system of support.

¹ California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development special tabulation; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail 2000-2009; Population Reference Bureau, Population Estimates 2010-2016 (Aug. 2017). [Adolescent Report: Youth and Adults Working Together for a Healthy Future](#); County of San Mateo & San Mateo Youth Commission (2014 -2015).

² San Mateo Area Teen Mental Health Study; Gardner Center for Youth and their Families, the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing, and the Peninsula Health Care District (Dec. 2019).

Eligibility & Criteria

To be eligible for funding, the lead agency must be a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and work within our geographic areas in San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County – specifically, South San Francisco to Mountain View, from the coastside to the bay. The Foundation will support only those organizations with strong and consistently applied non-discrimination policies.

Sand Hill Foundation will prioritize funding for proposed projects that meet the following criteria:

- The proposed project will work towards long-term systems change through building or strengthening cross-sector collaborations. The ultimate goal of proposed projects should be to develop sustainable ways to leverage resources that result in more young people routinely accessing preventative supports and early interventions;
- Young people between the ages of 11 to 24 who lack access or face particular barriers in accessing mental health supports are the primary beneficiaries of the proposed project. This is not limited to socio-economic parameters and may also include efforts targeting specific populations (e.g., LGBTQ+ youth, middle school aged youth, foster youth, transitional aged youth, youth from low-income communities, etc.);
- The application includes a clearly outlined plan for developing or strengthening a partnership between three or more agencies, including a formal letter of intent to partner, stated roles and responsibilities, budget allocation, and policy and procedures for data sharing and communications;
- The organizational leadership of the applicant can demonstrate a history of partnering well with others in the community and a long-term commitment to the target population served;
- Applicant organizations have the intent and capacity to track and report detailed progress, including accomplishments and challenges. The foundation and its consultants will work closely with grantee recipients through informal and structured evaluation and reporting with the aim to build ongoing collaborative capacity.

For the purpose of this grant opportunity, we will **not** fund:

- Direct services only³ (e.g., staff positions for the provision of counseling, medical care, social services, teacher positions, etc.)
- Medical research
- Loans or funds to individuals
- Operating support for individual organizations

³ Eligible partnerships can include the delivery of direct services as part collaboration-building or systems change. Ex: A robust trauma-informed training across partners from various sectors serving same or similar communities would incorporate direct service staff.

Timeline & Award Information

We will consider requests for up to two years of initial funding with the option to reapply for two subsequent years of support. Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 per year.

- Applications accepted: April 1 – May 13, 2020
- Informational webinar: April 7, 2020
- Site Visits: July – August 2020
- Grants announced: September – October 2020

Before applying, please visit our [website](#) for detailed application instructions and review a summary of the online application to help prepare your application. Registration for the informational webinar will also be available on our website.

For technical questions related to the online application or registration process, please contact Julia Damon at jdamon@pfs-llc.net or 415.561.6540, ext. 250.

If you have questions about the application content/narrative or details of your proposed request, please contact Jessi Misslin at jmisslin@pfs-llc.net or 415.564.6540 x.215

Alternative Funding Opportunities

(aka. Is my organization ready for a Wellness Partnership grant?)

We recognize that successful collaborations involving multiple partners require additional time, energy, and resources for each organization involved. While we are open to funding collaborations of various stages of development, from newly-formed to long-standing, the work to determine and secure the right partners for your work takes time.

For organizations who have identified a problem that is best solved through collaboration with external partners, but still need the time and resources to develop a plan or the capacity to do so, we encourage you to contact Sand Hill Foundation and inquire about applying for planning or capacity building grant support.

Planning and capacity building grants adhere to a different application process and timeline.

To learn more about planning or capacity building grants, please contact Jessi Misslin at jmisslin@pfs-llc.net or 415.564.6540 x.215.