



COVID-19 Response Fund: Supporting Youth Mental Health

Request for Proposals

Vision

Sand Hill Foundation is driven by optimism about the resilience and hopefulness of the human spirit. Our grantmaking reflects our 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 working towards equitable solutions that serve systemically marginalized communities in our region. Our mental health grantmaking seeks to improve the local mental health system for youth and young adults, with a particular focus on culturally-responsive services that promotes holistic well-being.

COVID-19 Response Fund: Supporting Youth Mental Health

Based on recent input from community members and those on the front lines of service in the mental health field, Sand Hill Foundation is expanding its support for the delivery of direct mental health services to young people and their families to help mitigate the traumatic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This represents a [focus shift for our 2020 mental health funding strategy](#) from a systems-building strategy to direct service, recognizing that this unprecedented moment requires an additional call to action.

The impact of COVID-19 and the correlating physical distancing requirements, including the closure of schools and cancellation of in-person services across youth-serving organizations, has affected the collective mental health of our community. We remain squarely focused on young people in need, knowing that the systemic inequities that existed before this crisis are magnified at this time and the risk of trauma and self-harm increases during periods of high stress and fear.

Criteria & Eligibility

Grant funding is expected to result in the timely, culturally-responsive, and secure delivery of supportive direct mental health services, including but not limited to online treatment, telehealth or text-based services, individual, group, and/or guided peer counseling to young people (ages 11-24 years old) in San Mateo and northern Santa Clara counties.

To be eligible for funding, your organization must be a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and work within our geographic area of San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County – specifically, Daly City 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:

- **Timely Response**

If funded, the proposed project will immediately (between 0 – 30 days after receipt of funds) increase access to supportive direct mental health services, including but not limited to online treatment, telehealth or text-based services, individual, group, and/or guided peer counseling;

- **Meeting Community Need**

Priority will be given to programs benefitting young people between the ages of 11 to 24 who lack access or face particular barriers in accessing mental health supports. This initiative focuses on connecting young people in need of support who may not be receiving it elsewhere during these challenging times. This framework is not limited to socio-economic parameters and may include, but is not limited to, specific populations (e.g., LGBTQ, middle school, foster, transitional aged youth, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, etc.).

- **Culturally Responsive**

Priority will be given to providers who can offer culturally responsive services, including treatment that compliments the values and cultural framework of the youth clients as well as trauma-informed practice.

- **Clear Partnership Plans**

If applicable, the proposal outlines a clear plan for delivery of services between two distinct agencies (Ex: an out-of-school-time provider contracts services from a mental health organization to provide low- or no-cost online counseling);

- **Prioritizing Privacy & Safety**

Any online or telecommunication solution involved in the delivery of services is verifiably HIPAA-compliant and applicant organizations are able to provide evidence of training and measures in place to ensure privacy and security of online/telecomm engagements;

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

- Medical research
- Loans or funds to individuals

Timeline & Award Information

This RFP was launched in response to the overwhelming and increasing need for supportive mental health services delivered online or in-line with evolving physical distancing requirements as part of the COVID-19 pandemic. With this moment in time in mind:

- Funding will be issued as one-time grants
- Grants will not exceed \$30,000

Applications will be accepted from June 1 – June 9, 2020.

The deadline for submitting proposals through our on-line system is **June 9, 2020 at 5pm**. Grant award announcements will be made by June 30, 2020.

Before applying, please visit our [website](#) for detailed application instructions and a link to the online application form. 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