



2019 Behavioral Health & Health Equity Initiative Grant Guidelines

Application Due Date: August 9

Thanks to a generous grant from Premera Blue Cross, the Community Foundation has an additional \$90,000 to award this year to support small and medium sized nonprofits doing work in the fields of behavioral health and health equity.

Grant Details

- Award amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000
- Total awards through this program in 2019 will be approximately \$90,000
- If your organization is already a grantee of Premera Blue Cross, you are not eligible for this grant opportunity

To apply, you will need to create an account in our online grants platform if you don't already have one. Once you start the application you can save your work throughout the process and come back to it later. We recommend you read through the grant and eligibility guidelines before starting your application. If you have any questions about your eligibility for the Health Initiative grants, please contact Philanthropic Services & Programs Director, Mindie Reule at mreule@thecommunityfoundation.com.

Program Guidelines

The Behavioral Health & Health Equity Initiative focuses on addressing behavioral health issues, with an emphasis on funding programs that help historically underserved communities, including people of color and low-income populations.

Behavioral health refers to health conditions such as depression, anxiety, mood disorder, and substance abuse. (Definition adapted from [Premera Social Impact](#)).

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care. (Definition from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "[What is Health Equity](#)" Report).

Community health data consistently shows disparities among underserved populations resulting in lower quality and access of healthcare services, worse health outcomes, and increased healthcare costs.

Grant activities could include programs or organizations that work to:



- Increase access or affordability of behavioral health services, especially for people from underserved populations
- Remove obstacles to health such as poverty or discrimination including, but not limited to:
 - Case management and assisting with access to services
 - Safe and affordable housing
 - Other supports and strategies that help people exit poverty
- Prevent or address the behavioral health needs of children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences
- Equip staff with behavioral health training such as trauma informed care

Priority will be given to proposals that serve underserved communities including people of color, low-income populations, rural populations, and children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences. By promoting approaches and preventions that include resilience and trauma-informed practice, these grants aim to foster healing for individuals, families, and communities.

Evaluation

In reviewing grant proposals, the Community Foundation will consider the following evaluation criteria:

- Works toward a healthier community by addressing issues of behavioral health and/or health equity
- Meets an important community need in Thurston, Mason, and/or Lewis County
- Collaborates and shares, carrying out their work in coordination with partners or in cohorts
- Addresses disparities and increases opportunities for historically underserved people and communities
- Meaningfully engages the voices, perspectives, and expertise of the people and communities that represent their program participants
- Are positioned to impact the need or opportunity they are addressing (strong leadership-board, volunteer and staff, well-crafted policies and procedures, broad funding base)
- Are well-planned and likely to succeed (realistic budget – both income and expenses, operating or business plan in place, evaluation or outcomes targeted and measures in place)

Applicants should be prepared for an interview at the mutual convenience of the applicant and the Community Foundation's Grants Committees. Grants Committees will review applications and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for final grant decisions.

Eligibility

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound makes grants to 501(c)(3) public charities that serve Thurston, Mason, and Lewis County residents. If your organization or group is not a 501(c)(3), you must secure a fiscal sponsor.

Grant amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Each organization may submit one application. Applications are reviewed by our Grants Committees, consisting of board and community members. The review may include a site visit or interview. The Grants Committees then present funding



recommendations to our Board of Directors for final action in late October. Grant payments will be mailed by December 31.

We do not support:

- Organizations that discriminate with regard to age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation, or presence of a disability
- Activities or purchases that occur prior to grant decisions
- Endowments and debt reduction
- Individuals
- Political activities
- Religious organizations when funds would be used in whole or in part to further the organization's religious purposes

This program will probably not support*:

- National and statewide organizations that cannot demonstrate a local presence
- Capital support for new buildings, renovations, property acquisitions, or major expansions
- Higher education institutions and private schools
- Annual campaigns, events, tickets, fundraisers
- Re-granting programs
- Individual schools, daycares, or camps
- Recreational programs and equipment, including playgrounds
- Short-term events and celebrations, such as conferences, festivals, and fundraising functions

*We encourage you to contact us with questions about whether your proposal's activities would fit within our grant objectives and guidelines. Contact: Mindie Reule (360) 705-3340
mreule@thecommunityfoundation.com.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound does not support organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disabilities, age, status as a veteran, national origin, or any other protected classes.

Due Date

Applications are due on Friday, August 9 at 11:59pm. Applications received after the due date will not be accepted. *Please note that staff will be available to answer questions and offer technical assistance until 5:00pm on Friday, August 9. We recommend beginning your application before the due date—especially if you are new to our online grants system.*

Contact Us!

We welcome and encourage questions about the Community Grants process. Please feel free to get in touch with staff for questions about eligibility, the online grants system, your proposal, or anything else about the Community Grants process.



We strive to respond to all inquiries within 48 hours. Contact Mindie Reule at mreule@thecommunityfoundation.com or (360) 705-3340.

2019 Health Initiative Grants Timeline

June 17	Health Initiative grant process opens
August 9	Applications due
Late Sept-Early Oct	Interviews
Late November	Nonprofits notified via phone or email
December 31	Grant checks mailed
June 30, 2020	Grant reports due

Online Grants Platform

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound uses an online grants platform. The platform compiles information and support materials for the Community Foundation's grant programs. If you are new to our online grants platform, you will need to create an account in our system. At the time of registration, you will be asked to enter the following information:

- A username that is an email address
- Your contact information
- Your organization's information, including the EIN/Tax ID number (required)
- Contact information for the organization's Executive Director or CEO

Tips

Some suggestions for using the online grants platform:

- Character limits include spaces and punctuation
- Be sure to save your work frequently by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the page
- Be sure to select "Apply" before beginning your application; data entered in the "Preview" page will not be saved
- The size of text boxes may be adjusted by dragging the lower right corner
- Required fields are indicated with an asterisk
- To create a PDF version of your application that you can save and/or print, click the "Application Packet" button at the top of the page

[Click here to access the online grants platform.](#)