



COVID-19 Behavioral Health Fund

July 6, 2020

The Rhode Island Foundation today announced \$1.7 million in a second round of grants to 31 organizations to help Rhode Islanders cope with the mental health challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Foundation created the COVID-19 Behavioral Health Fund in partnership with the state Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) with more than \$5 million in funding from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, Tufts Health Plan, and UnitedHealthcare. The full list of awardees and a brief description of what each will support is shown below.

Round Two

Organization

Grant Description

AccessPoint RI

Grant will be used to expand telehealth capacity to support children with complex medical needs, adults with I/DD, and their families — all of whom are coping with increased behavioral health needs due to COVID-19.

Adoption Rhode Island

The grant will fund ARI's ability to bring specialized expertise utilizing trauma-informed evidence-based practices to meet the complex needs of trauma-impacted children coming into foster care because of severe abuse and neglect as a result of COVID-19's impact.

Child & Family

This funding will allow Child & Family to hire a Clinical Care Coordinator and two Referral Coordinators. Added capacity will allow for immediate screening, triaging, coordination, and program assignment within six programs: East Bay Family Care Community Partnership, the Family Resilience Program, Functional Family Therapy, Family Centered Treatment, the Family Stabilization Program, and Elders Behavioral Health.

Day One

Day One will use the grant to ensure access to services and meet the increased needs of communities disproportionately impacted by sexual violence. They will hire a full-time, telehealth-certified clinician to address an expanding waiting list and to offer services free of charge to clients struggling with job loss and loss of insurance coverage.

Dorcas International
Institute of Rhode Island

Dorcas International serves refugees and immigrants, communities that have typically experienced trauma in their lives and have been inordinately affected by the COVID19 crisis, leaving them anxious and isolated. This grant will support a social worker who will partner with Community Health Workers to offer culturally-sensitive counseling services.

Family Service of Rhode
Island

FSRI will use these funds to enhance its Trauma Response to COVID-19 program through increasing its Spanish-speaking capacity, and adding capacity to conduct more case consultations and case reviews, providing immediate response and behavioral health interventions.

Federal Hill House
Association

Federal Hill House will use grant to fund a series of agency-wide trainings on trauma-informed care (foundational, advanced, and secondary traumatic stress) and to provide ongoing coaching throughout the next 12 months to meet growing needs of clients and staff as a result of COVID-19.

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| Fellowship Health Resources, Inc. | This grant will support telehealth and staff capacity to ensure continued access to behavioral health services for Fellowship Health Service’s clients. FHR maintains three group homes and conducts outreach programs that support low-income individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) and co-occurring addiction disorders. |
| Friends of Rhode Island CASA, Inc. | Friends of RI CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is collaborating with the RI Family Court’s Mental Health Clinic to serve court-involved youth from socioeconomically disadvantaged families, traumatized youth, homeless youth/families, and the uninsured/underinsured. Funds will allow adoption of telehealth and video-conferencing platforms to conduct individual and group teletherapy sessions. |
| Gateway Healthcare, Inc. | Gateway will use funds to purchase technology needed for clinicians and case managers to conduct effective telehealth sessions, and that have the capacity to transition post COVID-19 to the HIPAA compliant platform for integration of telehealth sessions within its electronic health record. |
| Interfaith Counseling Center | Interfaith Counseling Center offers direct mental health services to at-risk and vulnerable community members. The Center will use funds to meet the needs of approximately 100 clients with case management, referral services, education, group and community connection, and to support expanded services related to COVID-19. |
| James L. Maher Center | The Maher Center will enhance behavioral health support and access to telehealth for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They will buy iPads for group home residents and participants living at home with their families during coronavirus outbreak (as well as storms and other natural disasters), facilitating communication with behavioral health team, primary care physicians, and consulting psychiatrists. |
| Newport County Community Mental Health Center | Newport Mental Health will use funds to increase clinical capacity to respond to increased demand for youth-based services, provide mental health support training and direct services to summer program staff, and to provide mental health services to children identified by staff. |
| Oasis Wellness and Recovery Centers of Rhode Island | Oasis will use grant to provide peer and social supports for Oasis members who, because of the pandemic, have been prevented from accessing these supports. They will expand recovery supports to parts of the state where they are currently not available and purchase the technology needed to facilitate virtual and live support meetings and trainings. |
| Open Doors | Open Doors will use the grant to expand its capacity to provide case management and counseling to clients in transitional housing. Housing-based case management allows Open Doors to prevent further behavioral health challenges for its clients, such as disengagement from treatment, relapse, and opiate overdose. |
| Providence Children and Youth Cabinet | Grant will be used to serve 500 youth and their families in Providence via telehealth during the suspension of in-person sessions; provide virtual trauma training for educators; expand programs for Black families who are experiencing anxiety, trauma, grief, and separation; expand Familias Unidas program to serve 24 Latino families — including undocumented and unaccompanied immigrant youth — who are having problems as result of COVID-19 crisis. |

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| Providence Housing Authority | The Providence Housing Authority will use its grant to address the impact of Covid-19 on residents of public housing, including those requiring behavioral health intervention. PHA will hire an MSW Social Worker to serve as an internal source of expertise about Covid-19-related trauma, provide clinical support, coach PHA Resident Service Coordinators in making referrals to and navigating the behavioral healthcare system. |
| R.E.S.T. Support Group | R.E.S.T. provides training and education to families impacted by Substance Use Disorder. This grant will support families through virtual training and facilitation. Trainees will learn motivational techniques, domestic violence precautions, how to help families identify patterns of use, how and when to intervene with treatment, and how to support family member once treatment has started. |
| Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health | The Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health will use funds to provide professional development training/webinars for the infant/family workforce; increase capacity to support foster families and foster care program staff; focus work on vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. |
| Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Due to increased demand for counseling services as a result of pandemic, the Domestic Violence Counseling Program will expand individual and group counseling services for families, adults, and children experiencing trauma caused by domestic violence and sexual assault. A Clinical Manager will be hired to coordinate service and monitor certification for per diem counselors hired through the grant. |
| Rhode Island College | With this grant, the COVID-19 Behavioral Health Support Partnership for Aging Adults program at RIC will support multifaceted behavioral health services embedded in elderly housing communities. Residents experiencing mental illness, emotional distress, stress, or other behavioral health problems will have immediate access to support and help. |
| Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts | RICARES will use funding to establish evidence-based recovery residences, housing up to 50 underserved women who are on paths of recovery from substance use disorder. Housing will be outfitted to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in congregate living environments. |
| Sophia Academy | Sophia Academy will employ a licensed clinical social worker to provide direct service to students and their families, in a continuum of emotional health promotion, emotional trauma prevention, and mental health intervention. |
| Frank Olean Center, Inc. | Since 1966, the Olean Center has worked to help children and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The grant will be used to purchase technology to allow children and families to connect with clinicians, recapturing the client-clinician relationship that has been lost due to the pandemic. |
| Providence Community Health Centers, Inc. | Providence Community Health Centers is the major primary care provider for the uninsured and under-insured in Providence. This grant will support increasing and ongoing behavioral health services being provided by PCHC staff. PCHC is projecting to add 2,000 new patients by July. |
| Thrive Behavioral Health | To effectively serve current clients and continue taking on new referrals, Thrive has implemented telehealth services for individuals struggling with mental illness, substance use and/or homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. |

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| University of Rhode Island Foundation | URI's Talent Development program recruits and supports students who otherwise may not expect to attend college, providing them additional academic and financial resources to help them obtain a college degree. The funding will add capacity to the Counseling Center staff to specifically focus on servicing the TD student population to improve health, academic, and economic outcomes. |
| VICTA | VICTA, an outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment program, will use grant to support front-line workers and enhance technology capacity to accommodate remote therapy sessions for VICTA clients. |
| West Bay Residential Services, Inc. | West Bay RI, supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will use funding to purchase materials and activities that will provide increased opportunity for clients to engage in therapeutic sensory and physical activities throughout the continuing pandemic. |
| Women's Refugee Care | Women's Refugee Care center currently serves approximately 260 individuals, including 31 babies. The funds will help support the Clinical Social Worker, four community liaisons, and two interpreters who are helping to address anxiety, depression, addiction, anger, and suicidal thoughts among their clients. |
| Wood River Health Services | Wood River Health will use grant to enhance technology capacity and train behavioral health staff on effective use of telehealth, and screening for and identifying adjustment disorders such as depression, substance abuse, complicated grief and post-traumatic stress disorder. |

Round One

May 14, 2020

Organization

Access to Recovery

Grant Description

For individuals struggling with addiction, these funds will be used to provide 25 additional individuals (above and beyond normal caseload) who have or will 'fall through the cracks' of traditional federal and state COVID-19 relief funds with safe housing, essential transportation, and cellphone/media accessibility.

Amos House

Amos House will use grant to fund two, part-time Peer Recovery Support Specialists who will support behavioral health needs; allow nurse practitioner to provide telehealth services for those in urgent need; and purchase and distribute laptops to all 10 of their residential properties.

Bradley Hospital

Grant will help Kids' Link RI™ provide support for children who are impacted by the pandemic and in emotional crisis. Bradley will also use the funding to provide suicide prevention training to school personnel and install tablet-based work stations at Bradley and Hasbro to provide psychiatric telemedicine.

Butler Hospital

Clinicians expect an increase in the number of people experiencing a psychiatric emergency, including suicidal behaviors, as a result of COVID-19 isolation. The Patient Assessment Services unit will convert to telehealth for patient evaluation and virtual visits which will require purchase of iPads and computers.

CareLink, Inc.

This grant will allow CareLink to produce weekday TV show that brings activities directly into the room of the resident. "Room with a View: Bringing the World of Activities Safely Into Your Room," will have content coming out of evidence-based research on how to reduce social isolation in seniors.

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| Children's Friend | The funds will be used to support staff in providing services via phone and virtual visits, as well as providing the hardware and software to perform these activities; to train direct and supervisory staff on how to provide these services virtually; to support essential at-home structure, interaction, play, and wellness. |
| CODAC Behavioral Health | CODAC has partnered with RI State Police to shelter homeless individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. These funds will provide hazard pay for front-line clinical staff members who provide services to individuals impacted by opioid use and are testing positive to COVID-19. |
| Community Care Alliance | This funding will allow CCA to intensify outreach and face-to-face contacts with their most vulnerable clients by compensating staff for increased time and activities. CCA will offer incentives to staff serving the highest risk clients in residential and community settings to decrease their isolation. |
| Comprehensive Community Action Program | Funds will be used to serve increasing number of clients who are experiencing stress, anxiety, and depression due to the effects of the pandemic. CCAP serves children, youth, and adults in need of emotional support, mental health treatment, and substance abuse services for youth and adults. |
| East Bay Community Action Program | Funding will support the expansion of psychiatry for both adult and pediatric population, doubling the number of hours currently available. At EBCAP's Newport facility alone, requests for intakes have shot up by 150% since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, prompting the hiring of a new clinician. |
| Galilee Mission, Inc. | With increased PPE, this grant will allow Galilee Mission to keep their professional staff equipped with the tools to stay healthy. They will be able to maintain a clean and safe environment for residents with substance abuse in their residential program, and will increase capacity at residential facility. |
| Harmony Hill School | These funds will allow clinicians to have laptops for meetings, clinical treatment, and psychiatric assessment. This additional technology supports youth and families by increasing virtual visits and, in turn, reducing stress levels and allowing for improved mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| The Herren Project | This funding will provide increased support for those affected by addiction, providing additional online groups as well as phone consultations and online webinars. The funds will also enable them to reinstate their recovery scholarships, which provide safe housing and mentoring upon discharge. |
| Horizon Healthcare Partners | This grant will fund additional phone screening capacity to deal with increasing number of Rhode Islanders seeking support through BH Link due to COVID 19. It will also provide member agencies' staffs with psycho-social resources to mitigate the personal and professional stress that they are dealing with daily. |
| Meeting Street | Funding will help Meeting Street meet spike in demand for individual telehealth counseling from early childhood and school-age families by supporting extended hours of staff clinicians, and hiring per-diem mental health clinicians to assist with the increased direct-counseling workload. |
| Mental Health Association of Rhode Island | These funds will support a targeted effort called "Alone, Together: Resources, Information, and Help During COVID-19." The first track consists of virtual Zoom meetings with consumers to discuss topics relevant to mental health. The second focuses on providers, using a cloud-based collaboration tool to collect data on providers' resources and needs so that they can be shared. |

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| NAFI RI | The funding will be used to support the EOS Telehealth Initiative, helping families meet the needs of behaviorally challenged youth in foster care, residential and community-based programs. It will allow NAFI RI to develop effective approaches, enhance recruitment of new staff to meet increased demand, develop approaches to engage families in care, and monitor and report on effectiveness. |
| NAMI Rhode Island | This grant will help NAMI develop alternate methods of reaching participants through technology, including the implementation and expansion of online support groups and educational classes, and will help to put devices into the hands of more peer volunteers. |
| Newport Mental Health | As it responds to growing youth needs, Newport Mental Health will use its grant to help fund a licensed clinician to support children and parents who typically access services in the school setting, as well as to treat the mental health needs of community members struggling with isolation and/or joblessness. |
| The Providence Center | This grant will allow The Providence Center to continue its screening and personal protective equipment program, and to expand its telehealth programs to include vulnerable populations. |
| Rhode Island CISM Team | The Rhode Island CISM Team will increase the number of trained peers to provide a therapeutic framework of building and encouraging resistance, developing and enhancing resilience, and facilitating moving to recovery those individuals and groups profoundly affected by the pandemic. |
| Rhode Island Council on Problem Gambling | This grant will aid the organization as it prepares to offer its prevention and other community education activities online through secure platforms and social media, the latter for youth and young adults. |
| Rhode Island Free Clinic | This grant will help fund a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist who, among other responsibilities, will help respond to increased demand for services including telephone triage, direct patient counseling, and mobilization of home-based clinicians through teleservice. |
| Rhode Island Hospital | To meet the growing behavioral health concerns of colleagues and community, Rhode Island Hospital will use this grant to provide critical support to health-care providers and support the expansion of telehealth behavioral services. |
| The Samaritans, Inc. | This grant will provide operating support to enable the organization to continue responding to COVID-19 requests, to provide other supportive services, to prepare for returning volunteers, and to recruit new volunteers. |
| Seven Hills Rhode Island | Funding will allow Seven Hills Rhode Island to meet the increased need for behavioral health services in its Child & Family Services Program through the purchase of technology to allow for telehealth sessions. |
| Sojourner House | Sojourner House will use this grant to increase capacity to provide continuity for existing clients, to immediately serve new clients, to provide more crisis support, and to better serve Spanish-speaking clients. |
| South County Healthcare System Endowment | With an increase in patient volume as a result of the health crisis and recovery process, South County Healthcare will use its grant to expand its capacity to treat patients experiencing behavioral health issues including anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorder. |

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| St. Mary's Home for Children | This grant will enable St. Mary's to increase its capacity to serve children, youth, and families impacted by COVID-19 with behavioral health needs through community prevention and trauma-informed intervention, increased teletherapy counseling and care coordination, and clinical resources to those most at-risk. |
| Thrive Behavioral Health | To meet the increased behavioral health needs of the community, Thrive will use its grant to compensate frontline staff, install safety barriers between staff and clients, and obtain equipment to provide increased teletherapy and online support groups. |
| Thundermist Health Center | With more than 90% of its behavioral health services provided remotely, Thundermist will use this grant to help fund its tent-based respiratory/ COVID-19 clinic and other expanded psychiatric services. |
| Tides Family Services | This grant will support Tides' work to increase its capacity, including rapid response to referrals, elimination of eligibility criteria, access to educational advocacy and support, and a blended service delivery model combining telehealth and in-person response. |
| Tri-County Community Action Agency | To help meet the increasing need for behavioral health services, Tri-County will use its grant to expand its behavioral health and integrated behavioral health services by hiring additional licensed clinical social workers and to expand its telehealth technology. |
| WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care | This grant will enable WellOne to implement and provide twelve months of operating support for an accessible, HIPAA-compliant, behavioral health telemedicine (audio and video) service delivery model. |