



COVID-19 Behavioral Health Fund

May 14, 2020

The Rhode Island Foundation today announced \$3.7 million in grants to more than three dozen 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. The Foundation expects to announce a second round of grants from the fund later this summer.

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.

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 for 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.

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 resilience, 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.

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.