



Wisconsin Partnership Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIPS (RFP)

COVID RESPONSE FUNDING

FOCUS ON ADOLESCENT SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

APRIL 2021

The Wisconsin Partnership Program was established at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health in 2004 through a generous endowment gift from Blue Cross Blue Shield United of Wisconsin's conversion to a stock insurance corporation. The Partnership Program's mission is to bring about lasting improvements in health and well-being and advance health equity in Wisconsin through investments in community partnerships, education and research.

The Wisconsin Partnership Program's Oversight and Advisory Committee advances health and health equity through a commitment to supporting community-based organizations, led by community members who best understand factors that determine their community's health and well-being. The Partnership Program also believes that bridging the expertise and resources of the university with the lived experiences and expertise of communities strengthens our ability to successfully address and influence health and advance health equity together.

GOAL OF THIS GRANT PROGRAM

The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on our social and emotional health is undeniable. Children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the social and emotional health effects of the pandemic as they navigate school closures and the postponement of social activities, illness or death of loved ones, and stress due to the multitude of other pandemic impacts. Before the pandemic, the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) reported that 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-34. Research conducted in 2020 projects that the impact of COVID-19 on psychology and mental health is anticipated to be significant and may affect populations disproportionately, noting adolescents as an especially vulnerable category.

To address this challenge, the Oversight and Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Partnership Program will allocate up to \$ 1,600,000 to support effective and innovative approaches to addressing social and

emotional health of adolescents. For the purposes of this funding program, we are defining adolescence as being between 10 and 21 years of age. Priority will be given to those organizations that can illustrate a track-record of successfully supporting this population and that have established trust-based relationships.

FUNDING, DURATION and SCOPE

Each COVID Social and Emotional Health award will be for a maximum of **\$200,000 for up to two years**. A maximum of **8 awards** will be granted.

Geographic area will be taken into account in the final award decision process to ensure as broad a reach as possible of meritorious awards.

Fundable activities under this announcement may include but are not limited to:

- **Connecting** adolescents to existing resources and/or creating resources including:
 - Convening adolescents (concurrent with COVID safety guidelines) to offer accessible, equitable opportunities to build resilience, self-esteem, connect with others, find hope.
 - Prevention approaches that build resilience and address stress (e.g., through reclaiming spiritual and traditional practices, environmental awareness and healing, etc.).
 - Programs, projects, or processes which use technology to promote mental wellness among adolescents. Technologies which support self-esteem, self-efficacy, resilience, social support, and access to mental health resources are particularly encouraged.
 - Programs or projects designed to reach diverse communities; integrate adolescent voices into the design process; and adopt innovative and far-reaching dissemination strategies.
- Social and emotional health **workforce diversification and intervention development** to address mental health capacity, such as:
 - enhanced access to peer support specialists, community health workers and other para-professional providers;
 - increasing access to culturally and linguistically responsive services and providers;
 - development of technology-based interventions.
- Testing and/or scaling of **effective models** (including models that address screening and access to sustainable funding).
- **Training** for
 - **existing social/emotional health providers** to acquire innovative therapeutic approaches, such as trust-based and relational approaches;
 - **parents and caregivers** providing skills to support the needs of their family.

Please note that the Partnership Program operates under a quarterly cost reimbursement model. This means that your organization must incur expenses and request reimbursement. Funds are not distributed at the onset of the award.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Community Lead Organizations must:

- Be a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit, IRS tax exempt, 501(c)(3) organization, pre-K-12 school or district, or a tribal or local government entity.

By applying for a Wisconsin Partnership Program grant, applicants agree to the Partnership Program's [terms and conditions](#).

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

Request for Partnerships released	April 19, 2021
Letters of Intent due	May 17, 2021
Invitation to submit Full Proposal	Week of May 24, 2021
Full Proposals Due	June 28, 2021
Award Notification	July 23, 2021
Earliest project start date	September 1, 2021

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Letter of Intent. Due May 17th, 2021 by 11:59 PM.

*Applicants invited to submit full proposals will be notified the week of **May 24th**.*

To start a Letter of Intent, go to:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5637?SA=SNA&FID=35356

If you've already started a Letter of Intent, access it by logging into:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5637?SA=AM

Applicants will be asked to submit the following information by uploading PDFs to our online grant management database.

- Contact information and IRS determination letter (501c3) or other relevant documentation.

Letters should be a maximum of three pages (11-point font, 1-inch margins) and should include the following information in the order listed below.

- Organizational mission and existing capacity to support adolescent social and emotional health.
- Population served (include specific geographic areas where you focus your work or note if your efforts are state-wide and if so, how you plan to achieve a statewide reach).
- Describe how your organization is led or informed by those who best understand adolescent social and emotional health.
- Describe the major activities you propose under this grant and time frame for each activity.
- Evaluating outcomes will be critical to understanding impact and the potential for scaling interventions. Describe the experience your organization has with evaluating and reporting on outcomes.
- Please provide a bulleted list of partners you will engage and their role in this work (e.g., schools, health systems, government, private sector, local philanthropy, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, etc.).

Other information requested – please upload:

- Financial Statements- please attach a recent audit report or IRS Form 990 issued less than 15 months prior to the application date. If your organization does not have an audit or IRS Form 990, provide a balance sheet and income statement for the most recent closed accounting period.

Partnership Program staff and content experts (including an adolescent advisory board) will evaluate each submission to check for eligibility and fit with the intent of this award program. Submissions that do not meet eligibility requirements will not move forward.

Letter of Intent Criteria

- Does the letter meet eligibility requirements and illustrate an alignment with the goals of this funding program?
- Do the applicants have expertise in adolescent social and emotional health and development?
- Have the applicants shown evidence of successfully connecting with and providing activities that are responsive to the specific needs of adolescents?
- Due to the critical and immediate effects of this pandemic, does this organization show evidence that the proposed work can be implemented quickly?

Step 2: By Invitation Only. Due by 11:59PM June 28th, 2021.

You will be asked to submit the following information by uploading a PDF to our online grants management database.

Narrative (5-pages maximum, 11-point font, 1-inch margins)

Executive Summary (one page maximum, 11-point font, 1-inch margins)

The summary is a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from other application materials. Your summary should include (a) description of need for this specific approach to adolescent social and emotional health, (b) an overview of the proposed grant activities and desired

outcomes, (c) the partnerships involved, (d) plans for evaluation, and (e) the contextual factors that will support or hinder progress toward realization of outcomes.

Activities and Evidence Base (two pages maximum, 11-point font, 1-inch margins)

- What are the proposed primary activities the team will undertake within the timeline of the initiative and what are the specific goals for each activity?
- What is the existing evidence supporting the proposed approach? If you are piloting an approach that will contribute to the evidence-base, please explain why you are taking the proposed approach.
- What are the preconditions that must be in place to bring about the long-term goal (e.g., Medicaid funding, continuation of partnerships, etc.)?

Evaluation (two page maximum, 11-point font, 1-inch margins)

Evaluation is critical to better understanding what approaches do or do not work – knowing both is of significant value to future decision making. Evaluation approaches should be adaptive, culturally responsive, ongoing and include engagement of those whose health and well-being will be most impacted by the proposed work.

- Who makes up the evaluation team for this proposal? Do you have access to an evaluator to lead this work?
- What validated qualitative and/or quantitative short and medium-term outcomes measures will you look to for continuous evaluation of your efforts?
- How will you collect, analyze and report these data?
- Should the data indicate a need for change in approach, what is the process for changing or making improvements to the action steps?
- What experience does your team have with culturally responsive evaluation?
- What is the process to disseminate evaluation results?
- How many persons are expected to be impacted by this project (i.e., adolescents served, parents trained, etc.)?

Letters of Commitment from project partners and past recipients of service (no page limit)

Letters of commitment provide a crucial piece of an overall application. Each named partner from the Letter of Intent stage should provide a letter of commitment. Letters from adolescents and others who have received support from your work are also welcome and encouraged to submit letters. There is no page limit for letters of commitment.

Budget (using budget template provided)

Project Budget

The project budget should clearly indicate how the grant funds will be spent. Expenditures must:

- be fully justified and reasonable to complete the project's goals;
- reflect the activities listed in the proposal; and

- explain the sources and amounts of any cash-match or cost-sharing funds.

Requests should be made by expense type (salary and fringe benefits, services, travel, supplies, etc.) and should provide sufficient detail for individuals unfamiliar with the project.

Budget Justification (upload as a PDF, 1-inch margin, 11-point font)

A budget justification is required for purposes of describing in detail the major budget line items: salary and fringe benefits, travel, services, and supplies and other expenses. The narrative should provide specific information about why an expense is necessary to achieve the project's goals and objectives.

Use of Funds

Guidelines for allowable/unallowable expenses are available for review on the Wisconsin Partnership Program website.

Funds must be used for project-related costs, examples include:

- Personnel expenses, i.e., salaries and benefits
- Salary support for academic partners (if applicable)
- Consultant and contract services (e.g., training)
- Travel
- Office supplies and participant incentives directly related to the scope of work
- Services that are not otherwise available or reimbursable

Funds may not be used for:

- Patient care with the sole purpose of providing clinical services related to treatment or follow-up for specific health conditions; such as funded or reimbursable clinical services.
- General overhead expenses, i.e., general administrative support, office space and cost-allocations for expenses not directly related to the project
- Indirect overhead and administrative costs
- Lobbying
- Pre-award or proposal costs
- Capital expenditures costing \$5,000 or more with a useful life of two (2) years or more; exceptions may be made for capital expenditures if such equipment is crucial to the primary objectives of the project; Wisconsin Partnership Program pre-approval is required.
- Projects outside the state of Wisconsin
- Supplanting

Other documentation

- Non-supplanting questionnaire (provided online)
- Human subject approval plans
- Designation of confidential and proprietary information forms (using template provided)

All proposals are due no later than 11:59 PM on June 28th, 2021.

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND FUNDING DECISIONS

The Oversight and Advisory Committee will use the following criteria and scoring rubric to make funding decisions.

Criteria for proposal review:

- The proposal provides a clear and convincing summary of the work and gives reviewers confidence that the team and proposed approach can have a positive impact on adolescent social and emotional health.
- The proposal illustrates a strong and qualified lead applicant and team and has illustrated trust-based relationships with the adolescents who will be impacted by this work.
- Letters of Commitment are specific to the work, commitment and involvement of the individual or group submitting the letter. Template letters will not be considered positively.
- The proposal presents a clear and convincing description of evaluation strategies and how success is defined (short and longer-term).

Scoring

- Strong potential for positive impact on adolescent social/emotional health = 40 points
- Ability of team to engage in this work = 20 points
- Rigorous approach to continuous evaluation = 20 points
- Sustainability and scalability = 20 points

The Oversight and Advisory Committee final vote will take place at their meeting on **July 21st, 2021**. The OAC anticipates funding up to 8 proposals; *decisions made by the OAC are final and not subject to appeal.*

Grantees will be notified of the award decisions by or on **July 23rd, 2021**.

Earliest start date is **September 1st, 2021**.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By applying for a Wisconsin Partnership Program grant, applicants agree to the Partnership Program's [terms and conditions](#). **For more information or assistance, please contact:**

Andrea Dearlove, Senior Program Officer
Wisconsin Partnership Program
adearlove@wisc.edu

Courtney Saxler, Program Officer
Wisconsin Partnership Program
csaxler@wisc.edu

Jon Thomas, Assistant Director for Finance
Wisconsin Partnership Program
thomas38@wisc.edu