



Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services

FY 2012 Grant Request for Application (RFA)

Positive School Climate Initiative

Request for Application (RFA) no. K-1
Posting on www.acbhcs.org: September 4, 2012

Key Dates

Application Deadline	FY 12/13 applications will open September 4th, 2012 with a rolling deadline, until October 31 st . Any funds that haven't been awarded and allocated by October 31, 2012 will be distributed to awarded grantees.
Grant Questions Accepted	Programmatic questions will be accepted between September 4, 2012 and October 15, 2012.
Award Announcement	Successful applicants will be notified within 1 month of the grant submission

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS), in partnership with the City of Berkeley (COB), is accepting applications from Alameda County K-12 School Districts to implement curricula and programming that will promote positive school climate.

Background

In June 2007, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), voted to approve sixty million dollars in Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) initiative funds for a Student Mental Health Initiative (SMHI) in response to the tragedy at Virginia Tech. While tragic incidents are rare, the urgency to take steps to prevent such incidents is undeniable. The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen student mental health in both the K-12 and higher education environments.

These Statewide funds for the SMHI require collaboration with a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or another jurisdiction in order to secure funds for replicable programming at the local (County) level. BHCS and the COB mutually determined to work on projects jointly for this purpose of implementing replicable programs at the local (County) level. BHCS has been designated as the lead jurisdiction and will manage all procurement services, as well as fiscal and programmatic reporting.

These grant funds are time limited and are set to expire on June 30, 2014.

Purpose

The purpose of these grants is to enhance capacity at the district level in order to promote student mental health and wellbeing in the K-12 setting through positive school climate activities.

The fundamentals of a positive school climate are characteristics of family, school, and community environments that elicit and foster the natural ability of children and youth to learn and develop. There are **four general factors** that appear to alter — or even reverse — potentially negative outcomes and enable individuals to transform adversity and learn and grow despite risk. They are:

1. Positive physical environment;
2. Caring relationships;
3. High expectations; and
4. Opportunities for meaningful participation¹

These Positive School Climate Grants are part of the School-Based Behavioral Health Initiative (SBBHI), which is a partnership between Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services and Alameda County School Health Services Coalition. The SBBHI promotes “*the healthy social-emotional development of all students, and strives to address behavioral health-related barriers to learning, which are critical to supporting student health and alleviating student stress*”.

Required Program Components

The Positive School Climate Grants will support the implementation of a range of curricula and programming that will promote positive school climate. A few examples of ways applicants can request to use these funds include:

- Purchasing of a positive school climate or anti-bullying curriculum, toolkit, or related materials e.g. Positive Behavioral Supports, Tribes Learning Communities, Listening to Youth Circle;
- Staff trainings related to implementing particular school climate initiatives or improving social-emotional outcomes for students; and/or
- Staff time to develop and implement a Restorative Justice or Positive Behavioral Supports program.

The above examples are not an exhaustive list of curriculums and program ideas; school districts may propose other ideas in their grant application. What is most critical is that school districts demonstrate how their ideas will improve school climate.

Each eligible school district will be able to apply for funds for whatever is most needed as it relates to positive school climate, however each application must describe:

1. The process (with supporting data) by which the need for the proposed program was determined;
2. Identification of curricula and/or programming and how this program or activities relate to at least three of the four general factors of positive school climate (see the top of page 2 for the four factors);
3. Identification of school sites where positive school climate activities will be implemented;

¹ Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, School Health Services Coalition: School Climate for Learning, 2012.



4. The key staff that will be involved in this project, including the project coordinator, and their experience with program implementation and positive school climate work.
5. Two expected measureable outcomes that will be accomplished as a result of this funding opportunity;
6. How these programs will be integrated into existing SBBHI activities such as school-based mental health services and/or mental health services coordination; and
7. The plan for how this project may be sustained after the grant funding ends.

As a result of these grants school districts will enhance their capacity to be *proactive, address students' needs early, and promote behavioral health for entire school populations.*

Funding for these grants is considered capacity building and is time limited. Successful applications will identify selected curricula and programming; describe how programming will be integrated with current programs and policies; and present a plan for creating sustainable system changes to support positive school climate. Applicants must submit a comprehensive and cohesive plan incorporating the elements described in items 1 through 7 above.

In addition to submitting a complete application, each applicant must agree to collaborate with and provide information to the Alameda County Public Health Department as it relates to this grant since the Public Health Department is conducting an overall evaluation of all student mental health projects funded through the MHSA PEI Statewide funds.

For more information on Positive School Climate go to Alameda County School Health Services Coalition website <http://acschoolhealth.org/SchoolBasedBehavioralHealthInitiative.html> and look under SHS Coalition Documents.

Eligibility

Eligibility for Positive School Climate Grants is limited to local school districts located in Alameda County.

Award Information**

BHCS expects to award multiple grants for a total funding amount of \$558,404 between 10/1/2012 and 6/30/2014. See Table 1 under Award Information on page 5 to view maximum grant awards by District.

The intention with these funds is to support district led, coordinated efforts to improve school climate. Applications from individual school sites that are not part of a district led effort will not be considered. Only one application may be submitted per school district.

Due to the prominence of health and education disparities in Alameda County and our commitment to improving outcomes for those most negatively impacted by these disparities, BHCS has developed an equity formula for the distribution of these funds. The formula includes a base amount for each local school district of \$14,000. Additional funds for each District are based on the percent of youth who qualify for the Free/Reduced Meals Program as well as the percent of African American and Latino youth per district.

Initial grants will be awarded for FY 12/13 with the option for BHCS to renew in part or not at all in FY 13/14. The total funding amount from the State for FY 13/14 is \$152,292, which is less than the total amount for FY 12/13. Therefore, the total amount of FY 13/14 funds will be evenly



divided among the 16 local school districts for a district allocation of \$9,518. Any renewal of the awarded grant shall be contingent on the availability of funds and grantee performance. Funding shall expire on or before June 30, 2014 and shall not be available after that date. BHCS may choose to discontinue or not to renew a grant for reasons other than funding.

FY 12/13 applications will open September 4, 2012 with a rolling deadline. However any funds that haven't been awarded and allocated by October 31, 2012 will be divided and distributed to awarded grantees.

How to Apply:

Complete the attached application and budget template.

Applicant Questions:

Applicant questions may be emailed to Tracy Hazelton at the address below between September 4, 2012 and October 15, 2012.

Submission of Application:

FY 12/13 applications will open September 4, 2012 with a rolling deadline. The final deadline to apply is October 31st. Any funds that haven't been awarded and allocated by October 31, 2012 will be divided and distributed to awarded grantees.

Submit all application materials to:

Tracy Hazelton, MPH
Prevention Coordinator
Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Agency
2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400
Oakland, CA 94606
510-639-1285
thazelton@acbhcs.org

Award Information

Table 1: Positive School Climate District Award Amounts		
District Name	Total Population	Award FY11-13
Alameda	10,494	\$20,192
Albany	3,879	\$15,530
Berkeley	9,468	\$22,195
Castro Valley	9,023	\$18,516
Dublin	6,287	\$16,113
Emery	788	\$15,202
Fremont	32,607	\$26,748
Hayward	21,744	\$42,828
Livermore	12,441	\$21,193
New Haven	12,955	\$24,963
Newark	6,654	\$20,665
Oakland	46,584	\$79,196
Piedmont	2,559	\$14,182
Pleasanton	14,904	\$16,659
San Leandro	8,822	\$24,071
San Lorenzo	11,879	\$27,859
County Totals	211,088	
State Totals	6,214,204	
Award Total for 2012-2013 Fiscal Year		\$406,112

For the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the remaining Positive School Climate total funding amount is \$152,292, which will be divided equally by all sixteen (16) school districts listed above for a District level allocation of \$9,518 each.

Application

Submittal of Applications

1. Applicants are to submit:
 - An electronic copy of their grant application to thazelton@acbhcs.org.
 - One original hard copy application, with original ink signatures. Original application is to be clearly marked.
 - **Both the electronic and the hard copy applications need to be received by BHCS no later than 12:00 p.m. noon October 31, 2012 for the application to be considered for funding. Due to the use of a rolling application process applicants may apply for funds anytime between September 4th and October 31st, 2012.**

2. All applications must be sealed and received **no later than 12:00 p.m. noon October 31, 2012**. BHCS cannot accept late and/or unsealed applications. If hand delivering applications, please allow time for parking and entry into building. Applications shall only be accepted at the address shown below and by the time indicated above in this application. Any applications received after said time and/or date or at a place other than the stated address cannot be considered and shall be returned to the Applicant unopened. All applications, whether delivered by an employee of Applicant, U.S. Postal Service, courier or package delivery service, must be received and time stamped at the stated delivery address prior to the time designated. BHCS' timestamp shall be considered the official timepiece for the purpose of establishing the actual receipt of applications.

3. Proposals are to be addressed and delivered as follows:
BHCS Grant Application: K-12 Positive School Climate Initiative
Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
Attn: Tracy Hazelton
2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400
Oakland, CA 94606

4. Applications must be:
 - Submitted utilizing the application and budget template;
 - Printed on plain white paper (for the one hard copy); and
 - Clipped using a binder clip (for the one hard copy).

All original pages from the Applicant must:

- Be single spaced;
- Use 11-point Arial font;
- Have one-inch margins around each page;
- Conform to the maximum page limits;
- Include "K-12 Positive School Climate Initiative" on the left header of each page
- Include Applicant name on the left footer and the document page number on the right footer of each page.

5. Applicant's name and return address must also appear on the mailing package.
6. Applicant agrees and acknowledges all Grant specifications, terms and conditions and indicates ability to perform by submission of its application.
7. Submitted applications shall be valid for a minimum period of ten months.
8. All costs required for the preparation and submission of an application shall be borne by Applicant.
9. Proprietary or Confidential Information: It is the responsibility of the Applicants to clearly identify information in their application that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act. To the extent that the County agrees with that designation, such information shall be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information shall be considered public.
10. All other information regarding the applications shall be held as confidential until such time as the County Selection Committee/Evaluation Panel has completed their evaluation, notification of recommended award has been made by the County Selection Committee/Evaluation Panel, and the grant contract has been fully negotiated with the recommended grantees named in the intent to recommend award/non-award notification(s). All parties submitting applications, either qualified or unqualified, shall receive mailed intent to recommend award/non-award notification(s), which shall include the name of the Applicant(s) to be recommended for award of this project.

RESPONSES

For an application to be considered complete, Applicant must provide all of the requested information described below.

Application responses must be complete, substantiated, concise and specific to the information requested. Any material deviation from the requirements may be cause for rejection of the application, as determined by BHCS' sole discretion.

The original hard copy application must be signed in ink and include evidence that the person(s) that signed the application is/are authorized to execute the application on behalf of the Applicant.

With Submittal of Application

1. **Title Page:** Include a one-page title page with the following:
 - The Grant title: "*K-12 Positive School Climate Initiative*";
 - Applicant organization name and address;
 - Name, telephone number & E-mail address of the contact person at Applicant's school district office for all matters regarding the Grant; and
 - Application date.

2. **Table of Contents:** Include a table of contents with:
 - A listing of individual application responses by item number (1-7) and their corresponding page numbers.
3. **Cover Letter:** Include a one-page cover letter with the following:
 - Official name of Applicant;
 - Proposed Target Population to be served (e.g. which school district, and if only certain schools will be targeted, which school sites);
 - The address of the Applicant's headquarters, any local office involved in the application and the address/location where the actual production of services shall be performed;
 - The name, address, telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address of the person(s) who shall serve as the contact to the County, with regards to the application, with authorization to make representations on behalf of and to bind Applicant;
 - Applicant's Federal Tax Identification Number;
 - The Applicant's school district director's signature or designee.
4. **Executive Summary:** Include a synopsis of the highlights and benefits of the application in no more than one page.
5. **Applicant Items:**

Bidders must respond to the following items describing a plan to utilize Grant funds to implement the program components described in this Grant Request for Positive School Climate funding in the K-12 environment. Responses to all questions may not exceed seven single-spaced pages, i.e. some responses may be longer or shorter than others, but all questions must be responded to within 7 single spaced pages.

 1. Provide a description of the process (with supporting data) by which the need for the proposed program was determined. **(10 points)**
 2. Provide a description of the identified curricula and/or programming and how this program or activities relate to at least three of the four general factors of positive school climate (see the top of page 2 for the four factors). **(20 points)**
 3. Provide a description of the identified school sites where positive school climate activities will be implemented. **(10 points)**
 4. Provide a description of the identified key staff that will be involved in this project, including project coordinator, and their experience with program implementation and positive school climate work. **(10 points)**
 5. Provide a description of two expected measureable outcomes that will be accomplished as a result of this funding opportunity. **(20 points).**
 6. Provide a description of how your potential positive school climate program will be integrated into existing SBBHI activities such as school-based mental health services and/or mental health services coordination. **(20 points)**
 7. Provide a description of a potential plan for how this project may be sustained after the grant funding ends. **(10 points).**



6. Budget:

Please include a budget and budget narrative for FY 12/13 using the grant budget template. Look at Table 1, page 5 to see the funding amount each District is allowed to apply for based on the equity criteria described above.

Please Note that due to the way BHCS receives these funds from the State, funds from FY 12/13 cannot be rolled over in to FY 13/14. **So please budget accordingly.**

Evaluation Criteria and Selection Process

A Selection Committee will evaluate each application meeting the criteria outlined in this announcement. The Selection Committee will be composed of Alameda County and City of Berkeley staff and other parties that have expertise or experience in the delivery of these services.

Applications shall be evaluated according to the responses given to the Application Items. The maximum score an application can receive is 100 points.

Award Administration:

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care will notify all applicants of award status through email and mail within a month of receiving an application. The final deadline to apply is noon on October 31st.