

**Request for Proposals**  
**IMPROVING ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN COLORADO**  
**Updated January 5, 2018**

Caring for Colorado Foundation seeks to improve the behavioral health of adolescents, ages 10-18, in Colorado because of the current realities outlined below:

- Colorado continues to experience poor behavioral health outcomes for children and adolescents.
- There are stark and alarming health disparities in behavioral health outcomes within certain adolescent populations.
- Efforts to minimize risk-taking behaviors among youth in our state are more difficult and complicated due to growing substance use challenges in communities.
- Our partners, grantees and health leaders have growing concern about the unmet behavioral health needs of adolescents in Colorado.
- Health providers, education professionals and community leaders report that adolescent behavioral health needs are not being addressed adequately and that prevention programs are sorely lacking.

To help address these profound and significant issues, the Foundation will offer a broad funding initiative targeting the behavioral health needs of the adolescent population beginning in 2019. In the interim, CFC is seeking grant proposals from organizations for **one-time only** funding to support efforts **to develop effective strategies for promoting adolescent behavioral health through prevention and early intervention activities**. This funding, which will help to inform the larger foundation initiative in 2019, is designed to support activities including:

- Adoption of evidence-based curricula
- Assessment and planning
- Evaluation
- Training
- Youth and parent engagement

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

In 2018, Caring for Colorado will award \$1 million to multiple grantees to support one-time efforts to assess and plan for meeting adolescent behavioral health needs within schools and/or communities, or to strengthen existing efforts in schools and communities. Caring for Colorado anticipates awarding 10 to 25 grants and will follow these grants closely as this work will inform future funding in this area. Applicants may request up to \$100,000 for a grant term of 18 months or less.

**FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Funding will support strategies to grow or strengthen systems and services that support prevention and early intervention activities for adolescents, with a focus on eliminating health disparities.

Funding will be prioritized to school-aged youth (ages 10-18) who experience the greatest barriers to behavioral health due factors such as racism, heterosexism, classism, immigration status or other social and emotional challenges. As a statewide grantmaker, CFC is interested in funding projects throughout Colorado.

 **CARING for COLORADO FOUNDATION**  
A Health Grantmaker

Examples of how funding can be used:

- Assessing adolescent behavioral health needs within a school or school district.
- Planning efforts to develop a comprehensive school or community plan to address youth behavioral health.
- Engaging adolescents and parents to help inform the delivery of school-based mental health services.
- Developing a youth-driven prevention program within a school or school district.
- Training staff on delivering an evidence-based mental health promotion curriculum where teens are, such as schools, after-school programs or community-based organizations.
- Training staff on trauma-informed practices when working with adolescents.
- Evaluating current school-based behavioral health programs with the goal to improve them and/or scale to other schools.
- Developing creative approaches for providing prevention messages to youth, including social media campaigns.
- Adopting and/or evaluating an evidence-based or promising program/curriculum.

#### **APPLICANT CHARACTERISTICS**

To be eligible, the applicant must have a history of delivering behavioral health services or prevention programs for youth in schools or other community settings. Specifically, this can include:

- An individual school or school district
- Community mental health center
- School-based health center
- Community non-profit or public agency that works with youth
- A community health center, hospital or health system that provides school-linked health services.

#### **INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING**

- Behavioral health treatment services
- General operating support of the applicant organization
- Support of an organization or school that does not have a history in delivering school-based behavioral health services or education
- Projects that cannot be sustained beyond the grant period

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)
- Grant deadline: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
- To apply, visit [www.caringforcolorado.org](http://www.caringforcolorado.org).

#### **QUESTIONS**

Contact Monica Abrahams at [mabrahams@caringforcolorado.org](mailto:mabrahams@caringforcolorado.org) or (303) 414-6701. We strongly encourage you to contact Monica before applying to discuss whether your proposal may align with this funding opportunity.

**Webinar slides and Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on the CFC website by 2/5/18.**