



**ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CARE SERVICES
INNOVATIVE GRANTS PROGRAM
FIRST FUNDING CYCLE LEARNING REPORT
DECEMBER 2010**



*63 Mental Health
Services Act*

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A Special Thank you to:

- ∂ Our Organizational Partners: Human Resource Education Center (HHREC), Kring Desgin & Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF)
- ∂ Our Community Partners: Applicants, Innovation Board & Ongoing Planning Council (OPC) Members
- ∂ Our County Partners: BHCS Executive Team, BHCS Finance Staff, BHCS MHSA Staff, Board Of Supervisors & Staff & HCSA Director, Alex Briscoe

I. INTRODUCTION

This report provides:

- An overview of the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services' (BHCS) Innovative Grants Program;
- A description of the first cycle of the Innovative Grants Program; and
- A summary of the lessons learned from the first cycle of the Innovative Grants Program as of the notification of award phase.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Dollars

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), also known as Prop 63, supports new mental health programs and system transformation. California voters passed MHSA in 2004. MHSA is funded with a one percent tax on personal incomes above one million dollars. Counties are required to dedicate five percent of their MHSA allocation to Innovative Programs that are based upon the State Guidelines for Innovation and a planning process with local stakeholders. In Alameda County, local stakeholders asked that the Innovation dollars fund the Innovative Grants Process, described below.

B. Local Innovative Grants Program to Pilot Test New Ideas

The purpose of the Innovative Grants Program is to promote learning to:

- Advance the quality of mental health care services; and
- Improve outcomes for individuals at risk of or living with mental health issues in Alameda County.

The Innovative Grants Program involves a funding process designed to solicit new, creative ideas to improve mental health services and systems. Venture capitalists in the for-profit sector and community foundations have employed this methodology. Yet, the Innovative Grants Program has allowed BHCS, a county behavioral health care system, to pilot new strategies, such as:

- Providing individuals, groups and organizations with an opportunity to apply for short-term funding to test original ideas for improving mental health within Alameda County;
- Increasing outreach to the general public and specific demographic groups that have not traditionally participated in the mental health community;
- A more streamlined application for applicants to complete, with broader parameters for the types of ideas and opportunities for new applicants who are eligible to compete; and
- Using the web and technology for an all internet based application, review and notification process.

In the first cycle of the Innovative Grants Program, the target population, problem statement and learning objectives were deliberately left broad by Innovation staff to solicit a wide array of non-traditional ideas. The parameters for Innovative Project were based on the State's definition for Innovation. To meet the criteria, an Innovative Project must:

- Introduce a novel, creative and/or ingenious approach to improving mental health in Alameda County;
- Be a short-term project, 18 months or less;
- Have a focus on learning rather than service delivery; and
- Contribute to new learning in the field of mental health.

C. Program is Driven by Local Stakeholders

BHCS' Ongoing Planning Council (OPC) drove the Stakeholder Planning Process and the development of the Innovative Grants Program. The OPC is the primary stakeholder group,

which oversees local MHSAs planning and is comprised of roughly fifty mental health consumers, family members and service providers from an array of diverse cultural backgrounds. In winter 2009 a Special Planning Committee, comprised of volunteers from the OPC, met several times to discuss the most unique and effective ways to use the Innovation funds. These meetings resulted in an OPC recommendation that MHSAs planning staff draft an innovative plan based on the process identified by the Special Planning Committee. The Plan was posted by staff for a 30-day review and comment period, submitted to and then approved by the State in January 2010.

The OPC and other local stakeholders continued to be involved in the implementation of the Innovative Grants program. For example, members of stakeholder groups, such as the OPC and Cultural Responsiveness Committee were asked to share outreach information about the Innovative Grants Program with their network of contacts in the community. A twenty-four member Innovation Board, comprised of OPC members and other diverse community stakeholders, reviewed and ranked all proposals that met the criteria for the Innovative Grants Program. The OPC conducted a second ranking of the fifteen most highly ranked “Large” proposals by the Innovation Board to determine which “Large” projects would be funded.

III. PHASE ONE: OUTREACH

In partnership with Health Human Resource Education Center (HHREC), BHCS staff developed an outreach plan to educate a diverse array of individuals, organizations and groups about the first cycle of the Innovative Grants Program. Outreach began in June 2010 and ended in September 2010. Many of the outreach activities focused on engaging special populations defined by race/ethnicity, geography, lived experience with behavioral and physical health issues, sexual orientation, profession and age.

BHCS kicked off outreach for the first cycle of the Innovative Grants Program by providing in-person outreach at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton. Between June 23 and August 28, 2010, in-person outreach was conducted by HHREC and BHCS staff at LGBTQQI specific events, older adult oriented festivals, countywide farmers’ and flea markets, juvenile justice events and events in ethnic/language specific communities. Sixteen community events benefited from outreach in locations including:

- Central County (Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo);
- East County (Pleasanton);
- North County (Berkeley, Oakland); and
- South County (Fremont).

The outreach effort included targeted emails and phone calls to introduce the Innovative Grants Program, provide basic information and to engage different communities about the program.

The outreach team measured the success of the outreach efforts by the following:

- An estimated 5,000 postcards and 1,000 promotional/advertisement bags were distributed throughout Alameda County;
- Email communications were sent to over 1,000 individuals, provider groups and professional networks;
- After being introduced to the Innovative Grants Program, over 2,000 individuals signed up for the electronic mailing list; and
- The Innovative Grants Program website (www.acinnovations.org), a major hub of information, received over 20,000 hits at the end of the outreach period.

The below table contains a detailed description of the outreach efforts.

Detailed Outreach: Table 1

City/ County Area	Primary Audience	Event/Agency/Group
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All	Academia	California Institute for Integral Studies
All	Academia	Wright Institute
All	Academia/Social Workers	UC Berkeley School of Social Work Professors
All	African American	Bay Area Black Expo
All	AOD Providers/Consumers	Alcohol & Drug Provider Group
All	Artists	Health Through Art Advisory Board Members
All	Asian & Pacific Islander Communities	Community Health for Asian Americans
All	Asian Communities	Asian Community Mental Health
All	Communities of Color	Center for Third World Organizing Job Fair
All	Co-Occurring Providers & Consumers	Change Agents
All	Faith Based Community	Email Lists
All	FSP Providers/Consumers	Full Service Partnership Provider Group
All	General Public	Art & Soul Festival
All	General Public	KPFA Free Speech Radio
All	Healers	Sobonfu Some
All	Healers & Domestic Violence Survivors	Narika
All	Individuals with Disabilities	Center for Independent Living
All	Juvenile Justice Youth	Juvenile Justice Center Resource Fair
All	LGBTQQI	San Francisco Pride
All	LGBTQQI	Sisters Stepping in Pride
All	Media	Black Women's Media Project
All	Mental Health Providers/Consumers	Mental Health Provider Group
All	Native American	Gathering of the Lodges
All	Organizations	Wordplay Consulting
All	Professionals working in schools	Email to Alameda County Wellness Coordinators
All	Students	Email to Bergin University of Canine Studies
All	Underserved Ethnic & Language Populations Prevention Providers & Consumers	Prevention Provider Group
All	Youth Sexual Exploitation	Email List
All/South	Mental Health Providers & Consumers	Portia Bell Hume Center
Berkeley/North	General Public	Berkeley Farmers Market
Central/North/South	Latino Communities	La Clinica de la Raza
Central/North/South	Latino Communities	Tiburcio Vasques Health Center
Fremont/South	General Public	Ohlone college Flea Market
North	Asian Youth	East Bay Asian Youth
North	Latino Communities	Unity Council
North (District 5)	District 5 Residents	Supervisor Keith Carson
North/Central (District 3)	District 3 Residents	Emails to Supervisor Alice Lai Bitker & Staff Gene Calderon
North/East & Unincorporated Areas (District 4)	District 4 Residents	Emails to Supervisor Nate Miley & Staff Seth Kaplan
North/South	Pacific Islanders	Filipino Advocates for Justice

Oakland/North	General Public	Grand Lake Farmers Market
Oakland/North	General Public	Temescal Farmers Market
Oakland/North	Seniors	Healthy Living Festival
Pleasanton/East	General Public (also Veterans & Seniors)	Alameda County Fair
San Lorenzo	General Public	San Lorenzo Farmers Market
South	Afghan communities	Afghan Coalition
South/East (District 1)	District 1 Residents	Email Supervisor Scott Haggarty & Staff Chris Gray

IV. PHASE TWO: APPLICATIONS

A. Technical Assistance

HHREC and Innovation staff offered technical assistance (TA) to all interested applicants. BHCS recognized that many applicants would be unfamiliar with the application process, thus TA had the following goals:

- To demystify the application process;
- Help applicants refine their application components; and
- Teach applicants how to use the computer for the online process.

HHREC provided TA to all applicants who requested this service. Directed by BHCS, HHREC created a set of guidelines based on ethical standards of fairness and impartiality.

Advertisements for the TA services occurred through emails and the website. Applicants received assistance with the following:

- Developing a “learning question”;
- Specifying activities;
- Developing outcomes; and
- Creating budgets.

HHREC provided TA via a dedicated email address, by phone and through in-person meetings at both HHREC’s Berkeley location and other locations throughout the County. The extent of the TA depended largely upon the applicant; some applicants desired a discussion regarding one part of their proposed project, while others, particularly those unfamiliar with computer use, required more in depth assistance.

In total one hundred-thirty-one unique individuals received technical assistance. Moreover, HHREC provided:

- Three hundred-fifty-five unique email conversations from one hundred-three individuals;
- Thirty-one phone and forty-three in-person consultations; and
- Forty-six full proposals reviews.

To document TA, HHREC maintained a log of phone calls, meetings and kept digital copies of all emails. Additionally, BHCS staff created a designated email address and archived all TA related emails. In addition, HHREC kept a list of individuals who received assistance and what type of assistance they received. All of these documents are filed at HHREC until the final grantees have been named so as not to influence the decision making process.

After the close of the application deadline and before the announcement of grantees, BHCS staff designed a survey to capture applicants’ experience with the TA. The survey found that:

- Twenty-two of the fifty-nine (37%) survey respondents requested and received TA;
- Twenty-five percent (25%) of the respondents strongly agreed that staff were responsive to their questions via email;
- Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents agreed that TA was easy to access;
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents agreed that TA helped their application.

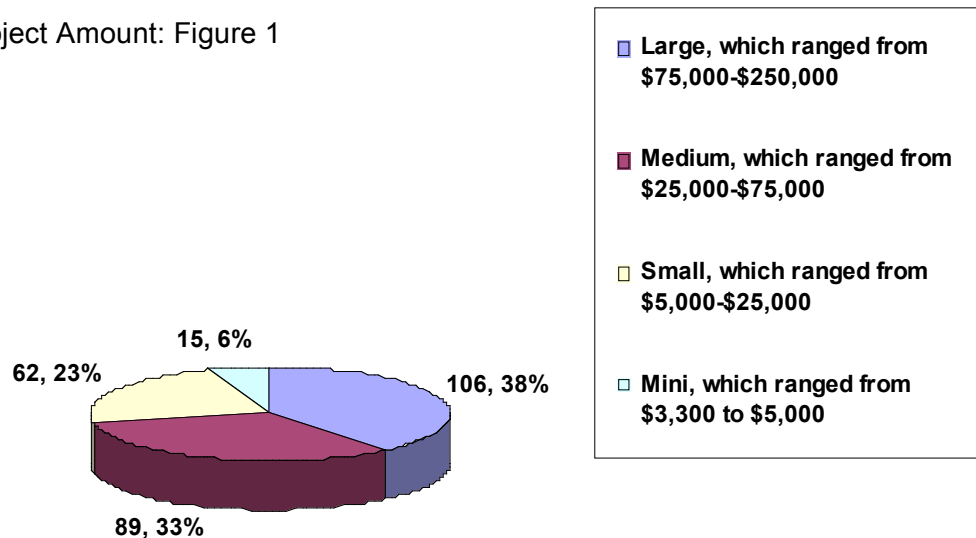
B. Overview of Applications

During the first cycle of funding, applicants could use the online system, between August 1 to September 30 2010, to develop, refine and submit their proposal(s). During this period, BHCS received two hundred-seventy-two (272) applications.

- The combined applications requested over twenty-five million dollars (\$25M) worth of funding;
- Nearly forty percent (40%) of applicants submitted a proposal for a Large Project, which would cost between \$75,000 to \$250,000 to implement.

The applicants' requested amount is represented in the below figure.

Requested Project Amount: Figure 1



C. Staff Review of Applications

To ensure that submitted Innovative Projects met the criteria for innovation, BHCS staff reviewed the two-hundred-seventy-two (272) applications for the following:

1. Newness, meaning the proposed project had *not* previously been done in the mental health field;
The guideline read: *Innovative Projects must promote new approaches to mental health in one or more of the following ways:*
 - *Introducing a new mental health practice or approach; or*
 - *Adapting an existing mental health practice or approach, so that it can serve a new population or setting; or*
 - *Modifying an existing practice or approach from another field, to be used for the first time in mental health.*
2. A learning component, which would contribute to the body of knowledge about mental health;
 - Applicants were to represent the learning in the application's "learning question".
3. A focus on improving some aspect of the mental health system and/or mental health service delivery;
For example, Innovative Projects may be used for the following purposes;
 - *Decreasing mental health disparities among specific populations;*
 - *Improving outcomes through increased quality or efficiency of services;*
 - *Promoting interagency collaboration; and*
 - *Increasing access to mental health services*
4. Time limited
 - Applicants have to complete projects within 18 months or less. The 18 months includes start-up and completion of required reports to BHCS.

BHCS staff screened all applications using a pre-determined methodology. Applicants were encouraged to use the first step to ensure the innovativeness of their proposed projects. The methodology included:

- A ten to forty minute internet research session of key words, topics and learning from the project to determine whether it was new to the field of mental health;
- Staff meetings to discuss applications that were flagged questionable applications;
- Discussion with the BHCS Executive Leadership team on applications that staff still considered questionable of meeting the above criteria.

Of the two hundred-seventy-two (272), two hundred-fifteen (215) (79%) were qualified as meeting the Innovative funding parameters. The qualified applications were proportional to the number of applications per funding category. All qualified applications were sent to the next step, Board Review.

D. Geographic Area

The majority of applicants specified “all county areas” or did not specify a geographic location in their applications. The following table includes a breakdown of the geographic focus of applicants and applications.

Proposals by Target Geographic Location: Table 2

County Area	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
North	102	38%	86	40%	16	6%	5	23%
North/Central	12	4%	10	5%	2	1%	11	50%
Central	9	3%	8	4%	1	.4%	4	18%
South	5	2%	4	2%	1	.4%	2	9%
East	3	1%	3	1%	-	-	-	-
All/Not Specified	141	52%	105	49%	36	13%	-	-
Total	272		216		56		22	

A Note on East & South County

- HHREC and BHCS staff conducted a total of ninety hours of outreach in East County.
 - Please see Table 1 for a more detailed list of outreached areas, populations and events.
- Of the two hundred-fifteen qualified applications, seven targeted populations in East or South County (3%).

System of Care Age Group

- A majority of the applications focused on the Children’s System of Care;
- Target populations with a focus on Adults were the second most popular age group.

Proposals by Target System of Care Population: Table 3

System of Care	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Children’s	94	35%	63	29%	31	11%	5	23%
Transition Age Youth	41	15%	24	11%	17	6%	4	18%
Adult	84	31%	65	30%	19	7%	11	50%
Older Adult	47	17%	41	19%	6	2%	2	9%
All/Not Specified	16	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	272		216		56		22	

Strategy Type

Applicants chose one strategy type that best described the project activities.

- The most popular strategy type was Outreach/Education/Training;
- Administrative/Business Revenue Enhancement was the least proposed strategy type.
- See the below table for more detail.

Proposals by Project Strategy Type: Table 4

Strategy	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Administrative/Revenue Enhancement	2	1%	-	-	2	1%	1	5%
Organizational Policy/Procedure	10	4%	9	4%	1	.4%	1	5%
Mental Health Advocacy	13	5%	11	5%	2	1%	-	-
Outreach/Education/Training	145	53%	118	55%	27	10%	10	45%
Social/Recreational Supports	48	18%	34	16%	14	5%	8	36%
Brief Therapy	28	10%	23	11%	5	2%	1	5%
Other	26	10%	21	10%	5	2%	1	5%
Total	272		216		56		22	

C. Overview of Applicants

To promote learning and program improvement, BHCS staff collected online “user data” about the individuals who completed applications during the first cycle of the Innovative Grants Program. Analysis of the data found:

- The majority of applicants identified as of European descent/White (42%) or Black (31%);
- A majority of applicants identified as female (65%);
- Most of the applicants were between the age of forty-six and fifty-five (46-55); and
- Most of the applicant organizations were non-profits.

See the below tables for more details about applicant demographics and the submitted proposals.

Submitted, Qualified, Disqualified and Awarded Proposals by Applicant Gender: Table 5

Gender	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Female	178	65%	139	64%	39	70%	18	82%
Male	92	34%	17	35%	16	28%	3	14%
Other	2	1%	1	.5%	1	2%	1	5%
Total	272		157		56		22	

Submitted, Qualified, Disqualified and Awarded Proposals by Applicant Race/Ethnicity: Table 6

Area	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Black	83	31%	65	30%	18	32%	8	36%
American Indian	3	1%	3	1%	-	-	-	-
South Asian	6	2%	4	2%	2	4%	1	5%
Pacific Islander	6	2%	6	3%	-	-	-	-
Of European Decent	114	42%	90	42%	24	43%	10	45%
Latino	18	7%	10	5%	-	-	-	-
Asian	7	3%	6	3%	8	14%	1	5%
More than One Race/Ethnicity	15	6%	14	6%	1	2%	-	-
Other	3	1%	4	1%	-	-	-	-
Unknown/Decline to State	16	6%	14	6%	2	4%	2	9%
Total	272		216		56		22	

Submitted, Qualified, Disqualified and Awarded Proposals by Applicant Age Range: Table 7

Age Range	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Under 18	6	2%	3	1%	3	5%	1	5%
18-25	5	2%	4	2%	1	2%	1	5%
26-35	51	19%	41	19%	10	18%	2	9%
36-45	64	24%	52	24%	12	21%	5	23%
46-55	95	35%	75	35%	20	36%	10	45%
56-65	46	17%	36	17%	10	18%	3	14%
65 or Older	5	2%	5	2%	-	-	-	-
Total	272		216		56		22	

Submitted, Qualified, Disqualified and Awarded Proposals by Applicant Organization Type: Table 8

Organizational Type	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Nonprofit	187	69%	147	68%	40	15%	14	64%
Individual/Group	47	17%	39	18%	8	3%	6	27%
Public Agency	22	8%	18	8%	4	1%	2	9%
Other	16	6%	12	6%	4	1%	-	-
Total	272		216		56		22	

V. PHASE THREE: BOARD REVIEW

A. The Innovation Board

For the first funding cycle, the Innovation Board was comprised of a group of twenty-four individuals that represent the diversity and broad stakeholders of Alameda County. Beginning July 2010, individuals were nominated or self-nominated to sit on the Board. Members were selected by the Ongoing Planning Council's (OPC) Steering Committee in partnership with BHCS' Executive Team in late September, 2010. The OPC Steering Committee and BHCS Executive team selected the Innovation Board members based on their:

- Professional and/or personal connection to Alameda County's public behavioral health system;
- Experience in reviewing applications in the selection of grants and/or contracts; and
- Vision of and experience in innovative ventures.

In addition to the above, the Innovation Board consisted of a diverse group in terms of age; race/ethnicity; geographic location/residence; occupation; and other group representation, including representation from:

- African American, Native American, Latino, South Asian, and Asian Pacific Islander communities;
- Both Christian and Islamic faith based communities;
- Transition-age youth (TAY) and older adults;
- System of Care Directors (Children, TAY, Adult and Older Adults);
- Public Health; Social Services; Housing and Public Safety;
- LGBT communities; and
- Consumers and family members.

The Board received training and an orientation to the Mental Health Services Act and the Innovation Funding in order to help them read, score and comment on applications. The

Innovation Board scored applications based on a combination of pre-determined scoring tool and factors, including:

- Feasibility;
- Clarity; and
- Relevance to the goal of the Innovative Grants Program.

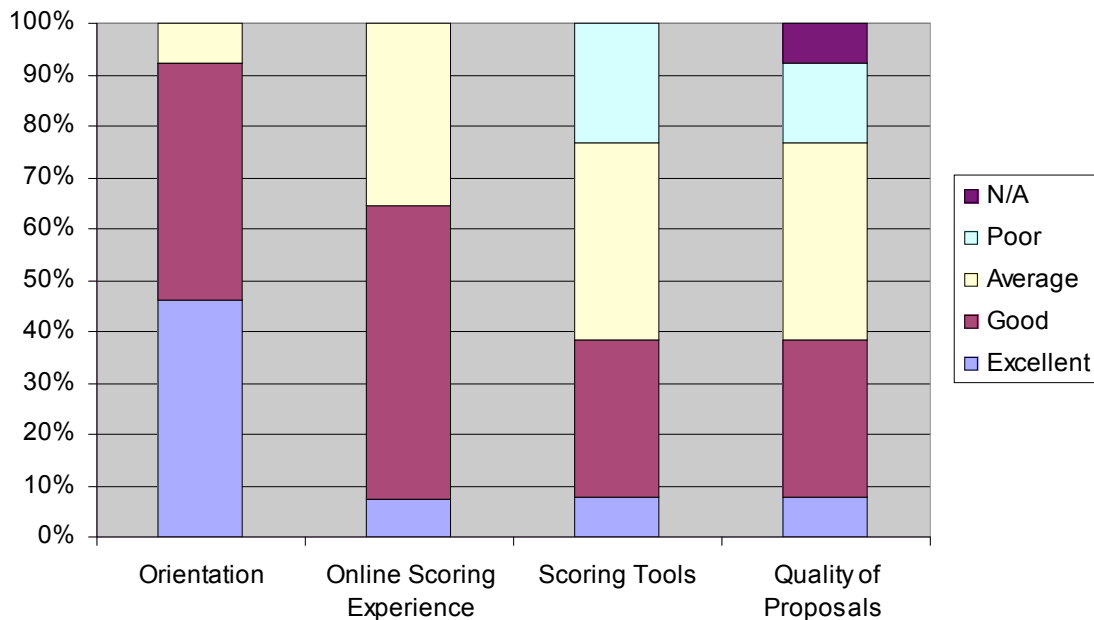
The qualified applications were assigned for Innovation Board Review via a structured process. Each Innovation Board member had a minimum of twenty-eight randomly assigned proposals to review and score. The System of Care Directors read each proposal that pertained to their respective system of care. .

B. Innovation Board Feedback About the Review Process

In order to capture additional “user data” BHCS staff conducted a survey of the Innovation Board, which found that:

- A Majority of the Innovation Board survey respondents rated the Orientation; Online Scoring Experience, Scoring Tools and Quality of Proposals to be “Good”.
- Forty-five percent (45%) of Innovation Board members volunteered a needed eight to twelve hours to review their assigned proposals;
 - Twenty-three (23%) volunteered a needed between sixteen to twenty-eight hours to complete their assigned proposals and
 - Eight percent volunteered a needed four to eight hours, while eight percent needed twenty-eight hours or more.
- See the below figure for more detail.

Innovation Board Feedback: Figure 2



VI. PHASE FOUR: NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

By using the recommendations made by the Innovation Board and the OPC, staff will notify all applicants of the outcome of their applications in early January 2011.

Upon award, grantees will sign an agreement and state that the funds will be used for the intended purpose; that projects will be completed within the specified timeframe; and that on-line reports will be delivered as agreed. The below table illustrates a summary distribution of submitted, qualified, non-qualified and awarded grants by geographic areas.

Geographic Location of Target Population: Table 9

Area	Submitted		Qualified		Did Not Meet Criteria		Awarded	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All/Not Specified	141	52%	113	52%	28	10%	15	68%
North	102	38%	83	38%	19	7%	5	23%
North/Central	12	4%	6	3%	6	2%	1	5%
Central	9	3%	7	3%	2	1%	0	0%
South	5	2%	5	2%	0	0%	1	5%
East	3	1%	2	1%	1	0%	0	0%
Total	272		216		56		22	

A. Innovative Grants Program Portfolio

The first round of the Innovative Grants Program will award twenty-two grantees with grants.

- The most common strategy among awarded projects was Outreach/Education/Training, which was also the most proposed strategy type; and
- The awarded projects were diverse, serving an array of different age groups and culturally specific groups.
- See Table 11 for details about the grantees.

Overview of Grant Portfolio: Table 10

Grant Characteristic	Number	Percentage of Granted funds
Grant Size		
Mini total of \$26,010	5	2%
Small total of \$176,330	8	16%
Medium total of \$323,382	6	30%
Large \$571,983	3	52%
System of Care Age Group (Target Population)		
Children 0 to 18	5	17%
Transition Age Youth 16 to 25	5	30%
Adult 18 to 60	7	45%
Older Adult 60 & Older	2	7%
Strategy Type		
Administrative/Business Revenue Enhancement	1	23%
Organizational/Policy Procedure	1	9%
Mental Health Advocacy	0	0%
Social Recreational Supports	8	18%
Outreach/Education/Training	10	43%
Brief Therapy	1	1%
Other	1	6%
Organizational Type		
Nonprofit	14	87%
Individual/Group	6	5%
Public Agency	2	8%

The below table includes all grantees for the first funding cycle.

Overview of Awarded Projects: Table 11

Project Name	Learning Question	Strategy Type
Earful Records Project	How do consumers use their experience to develop a career in the music industry?	Outreach/ Education/

		Training
Reformation: Moving Beyond Stigma	How does creating a dual mask support consumers to overcome the pressures from stigma?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Legacy Letters: Reminiscences & Reflections of HIV-positive Women	Do legacy letters increase the sense of peace & well-being of HIV-positive women undergoing mental health interventions?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Play on TAY	Will a psycho-educational game about mental health issues that is developed by & for youth increase Alameda County youth's problem solving abilities?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
African American Mother-Daughter Workshops	Can the creation of an African American mother daughter group based on cultural customs improve mental health?	Social/ Recreational Supports
New Approaches for Latino Patients & Practitioners within a Medi-Cal Treatment System: The Role of Traditional Healing as a Culturally Appropriate Innovative Care Practice.	Does exposure of Clinical & Peer Providers to Traditional Healing values & practices affect the approaches they employ in working with Latinos & result in increased client satisfaction?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
Three-Day Weekend Grief Ritual Retreat & One-Day Follow-up Event for Kin Whom Have Lost Family to Street Violence	Will participating in a unique grief ritual/retreat weekend help family members of victims of street violence heal from the trauma?	Brief Therapy
Qigong Workshops for Oakland Chinatown Seniors	How will Qigong impact seniors mental well-being when combined with mental health screening, psycho-education on mental health symptoms, & group process?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Building a Community of Safety & Respect	Will the creation of a strong partnership between the Albany Unified School District (AUSD) school district & lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families in Albany to help to foster positive mental health & well-being for students from LGBT families by decreasing the rate of bullying?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
Robertson High School	How will a 45-minute, weekly Transformative Life Skills yoga course impact the mental health of at-risk youth who attend Robertson Continuation High School?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Grlpreneur TAY Entrepreneurship Boot Camp	Does incorporating entrepreneurship training within the System of Care help to create a positive set of outcomes for young women of transitional age?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Battlefield Poets	Will providing a television media series for military fathers/mothers of the Iraq, Afghanistan & Persian Gulf Wars, & their children (6-13 years of age), promote wellbeing for local Veteran population & their families?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
MPACT	How will MPACT, Moving Parent and Children Together, a dance class, improve wellness?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Interplay Mental Health Project	Does providing weekly InterPlay, somatic awareness tool, classes for homeless & low	Outreach/ Education/

	income Oakland seniors at St. Mary's Senior Center help provide somatic awareness tools?	Training
Women Overcoming Trauma	Will peer trauma informed care improve mental health?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
Gender Acceptance: Bridging the GAP	What are best practices & tools for systematically training organizations how to respond to issues of gender variance in children?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
Who Are These Girls?	Will outreach activities targeting hotel staff impact their attitude & response to youth sexual exploitation in their establishments?	Outreach/ Education/ Training
Increasing Wellness for Mayans	Would using confianza, a culturally responsive outreach approach, create the capacity to effectively reach & provide improved connections to health services to Mam (Mayan) speaking families who have experienced fetal/infant loss?	Other
Be Present Inc. Family Camp Training	Will youth & foster care/adoptive parents increase capacity to address critical mental health issues by participating in a 4 day family camp group trainings?	Social/ Recreational Supports
Mentors upon Discharge	Will introducing patients, while hospitalized, to peer Mentors on Discharge reduce the rate of re-hospitalization?	Administrative
SSI Pre-Release Project	Will providing mentally ill inmates with legal advocacy to become eligible for SSI & MediCal prior to release improve mental health over time?	Organizational Policy/ Procedure
MAP/Human Services Mentoring Program	Does using a community defined strategy reduce disparities & build a more diverse work force work?	Outreach/ Education/ Training

Awards: A Note on East/South County

- Of the twenty-two (22) awarded applicants one (5%) was from South County;
- A majority of awarded projects specified “all county” or no specific geographical area for their project;
- The qualified, non-qualified and awarded projects were in proportion to the submitted applications in East & South County.

VII. PHASE FIVE: IMPLEMENTATION

The goal of Implementation is to start the actual Innovative Projects and commence with the learning. Grantees will sign an agreement to use the funds as described in the application. BHCS has collaborated with Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, (PVF) to quickly distribute and expertly track the grant funds to grantees. Moreover, BHCS expects that grantees will provide three reports over the course of their project. BHCS anticipates that some Innovative Projects will be more successful than others, which is welcomed in this learning process. Therefore, the learning about both challenges and successes will be encouraged in the reports.

The innovation of the reports will be BHCS' and grantees use of online reporting, a first for BHCS. BHCS has created an online template for this purpose to test the feasibility, utility and efficiency of online reporting.

VIII. PHASE SIX: LEARNING CONFERENCE

The twenty-two project implementers will take part in a Learning Conference at the close of all twenty-two projects. It is anticipated to be held in spring 2012. The website, www.acinnovations.org will contain highlights of the Learning Conference and other updates about the Innovative Projects.

LESSONS LEARNED

BHCS has learned an enormous amount during the implementation of the Innovative Grants Program. As a result, staff will incorporate the learning into the next round of funding to support a continuous quality improvement effort.

Additionally, BHCS staff conducted a brief survey to gather feedback about the Innovative Grants Program to promote program improvement in the next cycle. BHCS sent the survey to five-hundred-thirty (530) individuals that signed up to be in the email list. Fifty-nine (59) individuals (11%) responded to the survey.

A. User Feedback

The survey captured respondent feedback regarding the process and application.

- A majority of users (54%) agreed that information was easy to find on the website;
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents agreed that staff provided clear and helpful information.

The below table contains themes that emerged from respondent's comments. The Staff Notes portion provides a response to the concerns identified through the comments.

Applicant Feedback: Table 12

Technical Suggestions	Process Suggestions	Praise
Γ Add word/character counter or correct character counter in text boxes	Γ Make the account creation easier to use/Remove the verification request	∂ The application process was clear
Γ Provide more space for text so applicants may focus on the content	Γ Provide more detail about character limit, font, space type, etc	∂ The process was user-friendly & accessible.
Γ Make a printable version button to make printing easier with a nicer format	Γ Provide more detail on how to write short & long term project outcomes	∂ The weekly reminder emails about the submission process were helpful
Γ Please correct create auto-save of input application	Γ Prompt applicants to discuss how to measure change	∂ The technical assistance email were readily available & great!
Γ Allow cut and pasted answers	Γ Make the application available offline for those who are not computer literate	∂ The application process was smooth
Γ Experienced trouble logging in and could not reach a tech	Γ Offer two proposal due dates	∂ The process was easy & straightforward
Γ Provide more instruction on how to use links in the	Γ Add examples of projects that were funded	
	Γ Provide access to Q & A with	

<p>application</p> <p>Γ Make error warnings easier to see</p> <p>Γ Improve the budget information format area</p> <p><i>Staff Notes: Thank you for sharing the quirks and kinks in the program; we are sorry for any inconvenience they may have caused you.</i></p> <p><i>Staff is currently working with our talented programmer, staff and designer to improve the application screen. Among other improvements, we will insert a character count, which will also count cut and pasted text.</i></p> <p><i>Currently, the program does not offer after-hours computer technical support due to staff capacity. BHCS suggests utilizing the computer labs listed on the website and requesting TA in order to work through technical issues.</i></p>	<p>people & organizations whose grants were approved</p> <p><i>Staff Notes: Thank you for your input. Your suggestions are highly valued. We learned a lot during this first round!</i></p> <p><i>The next round of the Innovative Grants Program will have specific areas to fill out information, such as measurements. TA will also be offered during the next round to help applicants develop any portion of their application.</i></p> <p><i>The Innovative Grants Program has an extensive website with a FAQ section. Email staff with questions if you do not see an answer to your question. Previously funded projects were not included in the website because this was the first round of funding. We will post the grantee results of the first round on the website.</i></p> <p><i>Grantees from the first round of funding will participate in a Learning Conference. See the above section for more information.</i></p>	<p><i>Staff Notes: Thank you for your compliments. We love to hear what works too!</i></p>
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The next round of the Innovative Grants Program will begin in spring 2011. BHCS staff is excited to incorporate all learning from the first round to improve the technical issues and process. Additional information may always be accessed at the Innovations website at www.acinnovations.org, the hub of all Innovative Grants Program information.