



Request for Proposals

The Wellness Partnership: Improving Systems to Support Youth Mental Health

Vision

Sand Hill Foundation is pleased to announce a new grant program, *The Wellness Partnership: Improving Systems to Support Youth Mental Health*. Sand Hill Foundation is driven by optimism about the resilience and hopefulness of the human spirit. Holistic support for young people on the Peninsula has been a priority for Sand Hill Foundation since 1995, with over \$29 million in funding provided for local physical, emotional, and mental health programs for children and families.

Through our Health & Opportunity portfolio, we fund organizations that envision a better future for low-income individuals and families by providing local residents with pathways to health and wellness, educational opportunity, and economic stability. Our grantmaking reflects our deep commitment to the people and the place we call home, focusing our funding locally in San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County.

Overview of The Wellness Partnership

The Wellness Partnership: Improving Systems to Support Young People's Mental Health is a new grant program within our Health & Opportunity portfolio designed to improve the coordination of prevention and early intervention efforts among local organizations that support young people.

We believe if the resources were more coordinated and accessible to support prevention and early intervention (PEI) efforts, such as screenings for anxiety and depression, more young people would receive the appropriate level of support when they need it, leading to optimal health and wellness.

The Wellness Partnership grant program provides a unique opportunity for health and social service providers in the public and private sectors, health plans, researchers, educators, parents, school administrators, policy-makers, funders, and young people to develop or strengthen local partnerships needed to improve the coordination and accessibility of prevention and early intervention efforts.

Prevention & Early Intervention Focus

After engaging in a thorough reflection and planning process, our new program targets youth between early adolescence and young adulthood. Our approach to Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) draws heavily upon the definitions and guidelines outlined in the Mental Health Services Act, including an emphasis on culturally competent collaborations between community members. To facilitate accessing supports at the earliest possible signs of mental health concerns, PEI builds capacity for providing early intervention services at sites where people often go for other routine activities (e.g., health providers, education facilities, and community organizations). We believe early action will not only prevent long-term suffering, but also promote the development of positive cognitive, social, and emotional health.

Prevention and Early Intervention efforts should:

- Reduce risk factors or stressors,
- Build protective factors, and
- Increase resiliency through supportive, interpersonal connections.

Partnership

We believe in the power of collaboration to leverage resources, talent, and intellectual capital to tackle pressing community issues. Our new grant program will help catalyze new or evolving cross-sector partnerships (e.g., between schools, health providers, after-school programs, youth-serving nonprofits, etc.) to ultimately improve systems and policies that reduce fragmentation and increase PEI efforts over many years to come.

Sand Hill Foundation's investments are expected to result in timely access to prevention and early intervention programs that are more streamlined, coordinated, and culturally competent for young people (ages 11 to 24 years old) in San Mateo and northern Santa Clara counties. With this goal in mind, all grant proposals must outline why collaboration is necessary for success and explain why a viable solution is best attained by more than one agency.

Examples of outcomes we expect to achieve through *The Wellness Partnership* include:

- Evidence-based early interventions and/or depression and anxiety screenings are more coordinated and accessible in settings where young people access other services (e.g., schools, primary care offices, etc.) through formalized and sustainable multi-sector partnerships or collaborations that are mutually beneficial.
- Improved coordination among partners will result in young people being able to more easily access the appropriate level of support and/or treatment when they need it.
- Newly formed partnerships (or strengthening of on-going partnerships) are expected to remain intact after Sand Hill Foundation support ends (e.g., Memorandums of Understanding or Letters of Agreement formalize and sustain the partnerships).
- A planning process creates a pathway for improving the coordination of resources for a specific, underserved population (e.g., transitional aged youth, foster youth, middle school youth, etc.).

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, your organization must be a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and work within our geographic areas in San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County – specifically, Daly City to Mountain View, from the coastside to the bay. The Foundation will support only those organizations with strong and consistently applied non-discrimination policies.

Sand Hill Foundation will prioritize funding for proposed projects that meet the following criteria:

- The proposed project will work towards long-term systems change through building or strengthening multi-sector partnerships or collaborations and/or through a rigorous planning process. The ultimate goal of proposed projects should be to develop sustainable ways to leverage resources that result in more young people routinely accessing early interventions and depression and/or anxiety screenings;
- Underserved¹ young people between the ages of 11 to 24 are the primary beneficiaries of the proposed project/partnership;
- The proposal includes a clearly outlined plan for developing or strengthening a partnership between one or more entities, including a formal letter of intent to partner between entities, stated roles and responsibilities, budget allocation, and policy and procedures for data sharing and communications;

¹ Sand Hill Foundation will utilize a broad definition of "underserved youth" as it pertains to this program. The term applies to young people who lack access or face particular barriers in accessing mental health supports. This definition is not limited to socio-economic parameters and may include, but is not limited to, specific populations (e.g., LGTBQ, middle school, foster, transitional aged youth, low-income, etc.).

- The organizational leadership of the applicant can demonstrate a history of partnering well with others in the community;
- Applicant organizations have the intent and capacity to track and report detailed progress, including accomplishments and challenges. The foundation and its consultants will work closely with grantee recipients through informal and structured evaluation and reporting with the aim to build ongoing collaborative capacity across sectors.

For the purpose of this grant opportunity, we will **not** fund:

- Direct services (e.g., staff positions for the provision of counseling, medical care, social services, teacher positions, etc.)
- Medical research
- Loans or funds to individuals
- Programs or capacity building for individual organizations

Timeline & Award Information

Funding through *The Wellness Partnership* will be available through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process on an annual basis for four years, beginning in 2018. Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 per year. We will consider requests for up to two years of initial funding, with the option to reapply for two subsequent years.

The deadline for submitting proposals through our on-line system is **May 11, 2018 at 5pm**. Grant award announcements will be made in June 2018.

Before applying, please visit our [website](#) for detailed application instructions and a link to the online application form. For technical questions related to the online application or registration process, please contact Julia Damon at jdamon@pfs-llc.net or 415.561.6540, ext. 250. If you have questions about the application content/narrative or details of your proposed request, please contact Jessi Misslin at jmisslin@pfs-llc.net or 415.564.6540 x.215

Additional Information

An informational webinar was held February 26, 2018 to introduce *The Wellness Partnership*. [Click here to view a recording of the webinar](#), which includes a Q+A about the application process.

We are excited to explore what's possible through the power of partnership!