



**San Luis Obispo County
Mental Health Services Act
“MHSA Mini-Grant Program Extension”
Request for Applications**



RFA Released: February 7, 2022

Grant Submission deadline: 5:00pm, March 11, 2022

Questions:

Questions may be submitted electronically to:
Tim Siler, PEI/INN Coordinator
Email: tsiler@co.slo.ca.us

INTRODUCTION

In its efforts to promote wellness, recovery, and the reduction of stigma associated with mental illness, the County of San Luis Obispo is dedicating Mental Health Services Act funds to a mini-grant program for local community-based organizations. These funds should provide local non-profits (including those who are not already affiliated with MHSA) opportunities to expand training, cultural competence, and projects which support the mental health of underserved populations.

SB 192 added a subsection to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) that requires counties to establish a prudent reserve that does not exceed 33 percent of the average Community Services and Support (CSS) revenue received in the local Mental Health Services Fund in the preceding five years. Due to this new guidance, the County reduced its prudent reserve by nearly \$3 million to comply with the 33 percent cap. \$2.8 million was transferred to CSS, which must be spent prior to June 30, 2022. After a release of prudent reserve funds to MHSA programs through the original Mini-Grant Program, the MHSA Advisory Committee approved an additional release of prudent reserve funds to extend the Mini-Grant Program to community organization programs for up to \$100,000 to be spent on Workforce Education and Training (WET) prior to June 30, 2022.

The San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Department (SLOBHD) invites applications from community-based organizations (identified henceforth as “partners”), to be awarded funds that meet [MHSA Guiding Principles](#) as outlined in the MHSA General Standards. All partners are invited to submit an application based on the services described in the [WET component](#).

Funds will be awarded based on review and scoring reflecting how well the project(s) align with MHSA principles and objectives. Priority will be given to those organizations not-already contracted for MHSA services.

GOAL

The goal of the proposed MHSA Mini-Grant Program Extension is to provide one-time grants to partners to fund programming, services, or goods that adhere to WET goals, by releasing a portion of the remaining prudent reserve funds to non-MHSA programs. MHSA defines WET as the component of education and training programs and activities for prospective and current Public Mental Health System employees, contractors, and volunteers.

WET addresses creating and supporting the public mental health workforce that is culturally competent, provides client/family driven mental health services, and adheres to wellness, recovery, and resilience values. Examples of WET programming include those helping to increase cultural and linguistic competence through public mental health education and training, increase the partnership and collaboration of all entities involved in public mental health, and to develop a sufficient number of qualified individuals for the public mental health workforce through staffing support.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Released MHSA prudent reserve funds will be used to award multiple partners funding programs which support MHSA principles and objectives. Funds will be distributed as mini-grants at no more than \$4,999. Mini-Grant Program funds must be expended by June 30, 2022.

ELIGIBILITY

All current San Luis Obispo County community-based organizations. Those not currently receiving MHSA funds will be prioritized for this award.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

MHSA WET funding provides for 1) trainings and technical assistance, 2) mental health career pathway programs, 3) residency and internship programs, 4) financial incentive programs, and 5) workforce staffing support. The County supports efforts in this area related to increasing cultural competence, and aims related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

For complete background on the Mental Health Services Act and its WET initiative and definitions, please see:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/MHSA-Components.aspx>

All fund requests must include details as to how the project/expenditures will be guided by [MHSA Principles](#), WET regulations, and serve to enhance public mental health.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Proposals conforming to the requirements set out below must be received by the County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department by email to behavioralhealth@co.slo.ca.us , no later than **5:00pm, March 11, 2022**.

ALL submittals must be received in electronic (email) form. The required electronic submittals are acceptable in Adobe PDF form and Microsoft Word (preferred).

Please make the subject line: _____(org) ***MHSA Mini Grant Application***.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. Mini-Grant applications will follow the MHSA Request for Additional Funds formatting.
2. Only ONE application per organization.
3. All applications should be clear, concise, and complete. **NO** additional information will be accepted past the **March 11, 2022** deadline unless specifically requested by the County.
4. Application must be submitted with a **maximum of 3 PAGES**.
5. Application should be submitted in an electronic format (Microsoft Word preferred) to behavioralhealth@co.slo.ca.us.
6. A font size no smaller than 12 pt. may be used (no exceptions).
7. All pages in the application should be numbered consecutively.
8. Please DO NOT include letters of references, brochures or flyers. If necessary, this information will be requested at a later date.
9. All costs associated with the preparation and submission of this application will be borne by the applicant.
10. All applications become the property of the County of San Luis Obispo and will become public information after the submission deadline.

Any questions regarding the RFA or process should be directed to Tim Siler of the Behavioral Health Department at tsiler@co.slo.ca.us

MHSA Mini-Grant Program Application

- Mini-Grant Program funds must be expended by June 30, 2022.
- Total submitted request should be **no more than 3 pages**.
- Use the provided, numbered Headers in your application.
- **Only ONE application per Organization**, outlining which programs are impacted by the dollars requested.

1. ORGANIZATION

Please include lead contact/info for this application. Include your organization's non-profit tax i.d. number. Please provide a short description of the organization's mission, purpose, and/or objectives

2. MINI-GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Provide a detailed explanation of the project being funded, any history, needs justification, dates/timeline, and planned deliverables.

3. MINI-GRANT PROJECT AND MHSA PRINCIPLES

Please describe how projects/expenditures will be guided by MHSA Principles and WET regulations

4. AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED

Provide the requested dollar amount of the Mini-Grant Program funding, and an itemized budget of planned expenses.

5. TIMELINE FOR MINI-GRANT FUNDS TO BE EXPENDED BEFORE 6/30/22

Provide a bulleted timeline or table identifying steps in expending the funds, and who will be responsible.