



ESSEX COUNTY

COVID-19 Response Fund

Behavioral Health Partnership Grants

In partnership with Evelyn Lilly Lutz Foundation, Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation, North Shore Community Health Network and other donors

Zoom Q & A

Tuesday November 30, 2021

12 - 1 PM



AGENDA

1. Overview of Fund
2. Review Application Guidelines and Deadlines
3. Open Q & A

Link for full guidelines:

https://www.eccf.org/behavioral-health-partnership-grants/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off



Overview of Essex County COVID-19 Fund to date

- Opened Fund on March 20, 2020
- Focus on vulnerable and underserved populations
- **Phase 1:** Focus on immediate crisis mitigation: Healthcare, Food, Emergency Shelter, Disabled, Elderly, Emergency Childcare, Mental Health, Financial Relief to Economically Vulnerable, Summer food
- **Phase 2:** Open Application Cycle: Health/Mental Health, Economic Security, Education
- **Phase 3:** Out of Think Labs emerged key areas of focus: Digital Equity, Hunger/Food Systems, Behavioral Health, Climate Resiliency/Environmental Justice
 - Digital Equity Report and Project Launch: Fall 2020
 - Food Think Lab – January 2021; Food Systems Resiliency Partnership Grants June 2021
 - Behavioral Health Think Lab – September 2021; Behavioral Health Partnership Grants open November 2021; Grants made by end of May 2021
 - Climate Resiliency/Environmental Justice TBD
- To date nearly \$9.5M via over 400 grants impacted over 200,000+ individuals and families
- Summer COVID-19 Report: <https://cdn.flipsnack.com/widget/v2/widget.html?hash=hmq7affunf>
- Newest COVID-19 Report coming soon



Partnership Grants

WHAT IS A PARTNERSHIP GRANT?

ECCF believes that when people and organizations work together with common goals and metrics, each doing what they do best, we can change the system for the better. Sometimes it's nonprofits working with for-profit providers. Other times it's nonprofits working with municipal entities. And often times, it's all three working together to pilot a program, launch a tested solution or expand/scale a service or program. And philanthropy is a part of the system. The goal of a "partnership grant" is to invest in organizations that work together towards a common goal that has community impact.

Past Examples of Partnership Grants:

- An organization operating a food/meal program working collaboratively with a food pantry sharing transportation and staffing to produce 30% more elder meals to meet the need of food insecurity in an Essex County community.
- A regional coalition of food organizations, social service organizations and medical institutions create GIS maps to illustrate supply, demand & need to collectively develop a Regional Food Assessment that will allow for strategy and efficiencies of the food ecosystem.
- A regional emergency shelter partnership between three municipalities and two nonprofits to support the homeless needing quarantine and isolation during COVID.



Behavioral Health Partnership Grants

- Summer 2020 Think Labs – over 200 participants
- January 2021 Hunger Think Lab – over 90 participants.
- September 2021 Behavioral Health Think Lab – over 150 participants
 - See the full report here: <https://www.eccf.org/insights/>
- Design thinking exercise that yielded over 150 big ideas and multiple experiments that would address behavioral health from a systemic lens and population level scale.
- Our intention with this grant program is to inspire collective action, root cause analysis, ecosystem building and systemic solutions that result not only in programmatic impact but inspire trust and long-term resiliency in the behavioral health sector.
- Bring together partners: Nonprofits, For-Profit Sector and Municipalities – to move the needle
- Designed to prioritize those most impacted by behavioral health including Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), immigrant populations, elderly, those with physical and intellectual disabilities, people experiencing homelessness and other people living in poverty.



Behavioral Health Partnership Grants: Definition and Priorities

- ECCF is intentionally using the term Behavioral Health versus Mental Health to ensure we are being inclusive to all aspects of mental wellness. For this cycle, our definition of Behavioral Health encompasses all contributions to mental wellness. This includes psychological state, substance use disorders, wellness, behavior, habits, and other impacts such as poverty, discrimination, or abuse on behavioral health.

Our intention is to develop, test or scale solutions that can improve the Behavioral Health sector in Essex County by working collectively to identify the root causes that lead to health issues and systemic barriers to care. The goal of this work is to redistribute and reallocate the assets we have in Essex County; to reimagine and reinvent how we do things; and reskill and rebuild the workforce. This will be an opportunity to collectively co-invest in ideas that address the following from a systems perspective:

- Greater access to services that are culturally relevant and meet people where they are
- Reduce barriers to access such as but not limited to transportation, language or stigma
- Greater integration of behavioral health services in housing, healthcare, and food security
- An improved or expanded workforce by collaborating with local higher education, medical institutions and advocacy efforts for more sustainable wages and benefits



Guidelines: Requirements

Applications must:

- Be grounded in data and clearly outline the ability to move the needle at a population level scale in one or more communities in Essex County or County-wide.
- Two or more organizations such as, a for-profit business(es), nonprofit(s), and municipal leader(s). Two non-profits may constitute a partnership, however for-profit and municipalities must have at least one nonprofit as part of their application.
- Prioritize one or more of the following populations: seniors, communities of color, underserved youth, immigrants, individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, and other vulnerable populations to address racial and structural inequity.
 - **NOTE:** this work, while focused on the most vulnerable, has the intention of being able to work with all communities across Essex County not just the six gateway cities. ECCF and our partners recognize the disparities that are very present in some of our rural communities and other “non-gateway” communities
- Note: Funding will only be provided to organizations serving those in Essex County and priority will be given to organizations who are based in Essex County



Grant Amounts and Details

- Grants will be \$25,000 – \$100,000, based on needs and size/scope of application outcomes
- Grants will be reviewed and allocated by a small committee of behavioral health experts and community leaders
- Grant dollars to be used over 12 – 18-month period



Important Deadlines and Dates

The application will follow these parameters:

- Behavioral Health Partnership Grants Open (online application): November 9th
- Info Sessions hosted by ECCF:
 - Tuesday November 30, 2021 (10AM – 11AM)
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 820 6179 2979
 - Thursday December 9, 2021 (12PM – 1PM)
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 861 4029 5166
- Letter of Intent to apply (by nonprofit lead): due by Friday February 11, 2022 at 5:00pm
- Invitations to apply (given by ECCF to nonprofit lead) (online application): March 11, 2022
- Applications due (by nonprofit lead): due by April 8, 2022 at 5:00pm
- Site visits: conducted through April and part of May (virtual pending COVID restrictions).
- Grants notified: by the end of May 2022



Where to apply

See complete guidelines and link to application portal here:

https://www.eccf.org/behavioral-health-partnership-grants/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off



Questions?

Contact:

Carol Lavoie Schuster at
c.lavoieschuster@eccf.org

978-777-8876 x133

Or by cell M-F during business hours (9-5), but
please make an appointment when possible:

617-308-2722