



## **Behavioral Health Consortium Community Engagement Funding Policy**

The Behavioral Health Consortium (BHC) may provide financial support to activities that align with the BHC's mission to promote behavioral health, increase access to services, reduce stigma, and strengthen community partnerships. This policy applies to all requests for financial support from the BHC for events and public engagement activities hosted or sponsored by community-based organizations, public entities, coalitions, and other external partners.

The BHC may provide financial support to community events that:

- Promote behavioral health awareness, education, and access
- Align with the strategic goals and objectives of the BHC
- Advance equity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness
- Address the needs of underserved or high-priority populations
- Enhance partnerships and stakeholder collaboration

### **Eligible Activities for Financial Support Include (but are not limited to):**

- Community wellness fairs
- Behavioral health education and training sessions
- Youth engagement or peer support events
- Cultural or heritage events with a behavioral health focus
- Events related to working group topics:
  - Community mental health and substance use
  - Maternal mental health
  - Behavioral and mental health of caregivers
  - First Responder and Veteran mental health

### **Ineligible Activities for Financial Support are:**

- Events unrelated to behavioral health or wellness
- Political campaigns, electioneering, or lobbying activities
- Activities inconsistent with federal or state regulations or BHC values

### **Funding Criteria**

- **Mission Alignment:** Clear connection to the BHC's purpose and vision
- **Community Impact:** Reach and relevance to priority populations

- **Budget Justification:** Reasonable and detailed use of funds
- **Collaboration:** Evidence of multi-sector partnerships or stakeholder involvement
- **Evaluation:** Plans for measuring impact or outcomes

## **Funding Limits and Frequency**

- Individual event support is capped at **\$2,500 per event** unless otherwise approved
- Organizations may receive support for a maximum of **2 events per fiscal year**
- Total funding is subject to annual budget availability

## **Application Process**

1. **Submission:** Applicants must submit a formal request using the BHC's Community Engagement Funding Request Form which can be found on the website. The submission must be made at least **45 days prior** to the event.
2. **Documentation Required:**
  - Event description, objectives, and target audience
  - Event location
  - Budget breakdown
  - Description of alignment with BHC goals
  - Desired event-based goals
3. **Review:** Requests will be reviewed by the BHC-designated review team on a rolling basis.
4. **Notification:** Applicants will be notified of the BHC's decision within **15 business days** of submission.

## **Disbursement and Reporting Requirements**

- Funds will always be disbursed as a reimbursement.
- Awardees must submit a Post-Event Report within 30 days of the event, including:
  - Final attendance numbers
  - Summary of activities showing alignment with BHC goals
  - Report must demonstrate that the event materially complied with your initial proposal/request
  - Expense report/receipts

*Failure to submit the report may result in ineligibility for future funding.*

## **Conflict of Interest**

BHC members or staff may not and will not participate in funding decisions involving organizations with which they have a financial or governance relationship. All conflicts must be disclosed in advance.

## **Policy Review and Updates**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the BHC and updated as needed to reflect changes in funding priorities, regulations, or consortium strategy.