

2024 Enhancing Behavioral Health Care Access for Older Adults Q&A

Q: How many projects do you anticipate funding?

A: This will all depend on the applications we receive and the amount requested. Age Strong has \$450,000 to allocate for this grant. Last year, Age Strong funded 6 organizations through the Behavioral Health Grant.

Q: Do we have to fill column C in the budget template?

A: Yes, column C is the total project budget. If the project would only use the funding requested through this grant opportunity, then column C for the total project budget would look identical to column B. If the project would include additional funding, then column C will look different from column B.

Q: What is the average grant size?

A: Grant sizes will vary depending on the amounts requested and the proposed projects.

Q: Can a University be the prime with community-based agencies as partners or should it be the reverse?

A: Universities can be the prime applicant for this grant. If you have partnerships, please identify them in the application.

Q: do you have the list of grantees from last year

A: The 2023 grantees include the following organizations: Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Center on Aging & Work at Boston College/Trustees of Boston College, Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, Southwest Boston Senior Services d/b/a Ethos and Whittier Street Health Center.

Q: Would the City look to continue funding current programs?

A: Yes, it is possible that Age Strong will fund current Behavioral Health grantees, though being a current grantee does not guarantee funding through this grant program.

Q: Do agencies that were funded last year have to reapply again?

A: Yes, this grant opportunity is separate from last year's Behavioral Health Grant Program. The grant period for the Behavioral Health grants is one year, so the grant from last year will end at the end of May 2024.

Q: Do you have to have behavioral assessment experience to apply if only interested in the training part?

A: Age Strong would like to know what relevant experience you have, even if that isn't exactly behavioral-health related.

Q: The grant seems to be only for mental health experience.

A: This can look differently based on the program, think about what you can provide that may enhance the behavioral health needs for older adults (i.e. the project could be offering behavioral health training for professionals).

Q: Do you have a preference for new projects, or could we continue existing work?

A: Age Strong is looking to build capacity within the behavioral health care system. These funds should not be used to replace funding going to relevant behavioral health work already. They can, however, go toward expanding and building out work already being done.

Q: Do you have a preference for discrete projects that end at the close of the grant year, or is it fine to use this grant funding for work that will get going over the year and then continue afterwards?

A: Age Strong is looking for the work that is being proposed to be completed within the grant period, and funding for this grant needs to be used within the grant period. Age Strong would like to see this work sustained after the grant period, which is asked in the grant application.

Q: Are current grantees a priority for additional funding?

A: No, we are looking for applications that will enhance behavioral health services for older adults, and it does not have to be current grantees.

Q: Could you please talk a bit about the extent to which you are supporting wellness and prevention projects that promote elders' mental health...as opposed to clinical services for those with diagnoses?

A: This grant is not for social engagement related services. Ideally, this grant program aims to increase availability of clinical services to older adults in Boston. However, recognizing that too few clinicians exist to meet all of the needs of older Boston residents, Age Strong is seeking to also fund creative alternatives to clinical services (i.e. community health workers who are trained and supervised by a clinician).

Q: Is this grant opportunity solely for screening, provision, or increased access to clinical services for those with mental health diagnoses, or is it also for prevention, wellness promotion, and mental health supports?

A: This grant opportunity is open to, but not limited to, community-based organizations, behavioral health providers, organizations providing mental health

training, community health centers, Boston Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOTs), and hospitals serving older Boston residents, and can include, **but is not limited to**, the following program activities:

- Conducting thorough behavioral health assessments.
- Work focused on the mental health and wellness of older adults, whether in their homes, in a community setting, and/or via telehealth technology.
- Delivering clinical services to Boston older adults which address their behavioral health needs.
- Training of clinicians, community leaders, and stakeholders in tools and techniques to support the mental health and wellness of older adults.

Q: Is a proposed project regarding hoarding a priority area for this grant, or is that being covered by other efforts?

A: It is possible that Age Strong would fund a project related to hoarding through this grant program if it meets a critical community need.

Q: Can an organization already receiving grant funding be used as a fiscal sponsor, and can Age Strong help provide guidance or resources in connecting with a fiscal sponsor?

A: An organization currently receiving grant funding from Age Strong can be used as a fiscal sponsor. For assistance with finding a fiscal sponsor, please review TSNE's website, or reach out to them to answer any questions about fiscal sponsorship.

Q: Would movement-based programming designed to support the mental health and wellness for older community members that does not use trained clinicians to provide clinical services fall under the "behavioral health" supports this grant would fund?

A: Please refer to the grant description and examples of programs listed on the grant webpage (and listed in the response to a previous question). This grant is not for social engagement related services. Ideally, this grant program aims to increase availability of clinical services to older adults in Boston. However, recognizing that too few clinicians exist to meet all of the needs of older Boston residents, Age Strong is seeking to also fund creative alternatives to clinical services (i.e. community health workers who are trained and supervised by a clinician).

Q: Can an organization already receiving grant funding from Age Strong apply for this grant opportunity?

A: Yes, an existing grantee partner can apply for a grant through the Behavioral Health grant program.