

BHWET Grantee Questions from CSWE APM

1. Does HRSA have any opportunities to support the direct care, personal care workforce?

- We currently do not have open funding opportunities for direct care, personal workforce. The HRSA BHWET Pro grant's purpose is to develop and expand the behavioral health workforce to provide services for communities in need. The program places special emphasis on establishing or expanding interdisciplinary internships or field placements with training for: 1) students, interns, 2) faculty, and 3) field supervisors.
- However, please [subscribe](#) to receive email updates on HRSA's upcoming funding opportunities.

2. Appreciation from grantees for the focus on children/adolescents/families.

- Thanks to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, HRSA was able to [award nearly \\$60 million](#) in January through the PCTE- Residency Training in Mental and Behavioral Health Program to support the integration of mental health training into the training of primary care clinicians - with a specific focus on preparing primary care providers to treat the mental health needs of children and adolescents.
- The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which was signed into law by President Biden last June, provided HHS with vital resources to help children and families across the country meet the growing mental health crisis facing our nation.
- HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) family and children's programs include the [BHWET for Professionals](#) program, which increases the supply and distribution of behavioral health professionals, thereby increasing access to behavioral health services. Grantees train graduate level students of social work, psychology, and other behavioral and mental health disciplines to work with vulnerable populations, particularly children, adolescents, and transitional-aged youth at risk for behavioral health disorders.
- We also have the [Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program \(OIFSP\)](#) that supports paraprofessionals to work with families affected by opioids and other substance use disorders.
- HRSA's [Maternal Child Health Bureau \(MCHB\)](#) improves the health and well-being of America's mothers, children, and families. They have a [National Maternal Mental Health Hotline](#) that provides 24/7, free, confidential support before, during, and after pregnancy. You can also view a list of [funding opportunities](#) for MCHB.

3. Where can we find HRSA resources for organizations that express interest in increasing support for behavioral training support for youth in crisis?

- HRSA's Maternal Child Health Bureau has the [Pediatric Mental Health Care Access](#) program provides behavioral health training to pediatric primary care providers. Interested organizations can visit their website and review their [fact sheet](#) to learn more information about the program.

4. How can we learn more about BHE-TAC?

- The BHE-TAC strengthens the behavioral health workforce through community and academic partnerships that maximize collaborative learning among HRSA's Behavioral Health Workforce Development (BHWd) grantees.
- BHWd award recipients that are registered users can go to the [BHE-TAC website](#) and learn more about the program.
- BHWd award recipients that are not registered can create an account on BHE-TAC's website.
- We have provided a PDF slide deck and an information sheet for more information on the BHE-TAC.

5. Where can organizations that express interest in opportunities for rural behavioral health and rural opioid use find HRSA funded program/resources?

- HRSA's [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#) (FORHP) provides policy analysis to the Office of Secretary and supports a number of rural health programs, including rural health networks, black lung clinics, telehealth, and veterans rural health access programs. You can view a list of [funding opportunities](#) for FORHP.
- HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy supports the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\)](#), a multi-year initiative that addresses barriers to treatment for substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD).
- The [University of Vermont Center on Rural Addiction \(UVM CORA\)](#) serves healthcare providers and community organizations in HRSA-designated rural counties with technical assistance and evidence-based resources for treatment of opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders(SUDs).

6. Could additional funding be provided for proposals that include more professions (encourages interprofessional engagement)?

- HRSA will continue to consider all opportunities that support the key goals of the [HHS Health Workforce Strategic Plan](#), expanding supply, ensuring equitable distribution, improving quality, and enhancing the use of data and evidence to improve program outcomes.

7. Could support for BSWs come through the BHWET Para program?

- The BHWET Program for [Paraprofessionals](#) increases the supply of students preparing to become peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals.
- A Behavioral Health-Related Paraprofessional is an individual who is not a mental or behavioral health service professional, but who works at the first stage of contact with individuals and families.
- Prerequisites for certificate programs for paraprofessionals must be, at a minimum, a high school diploma or GED, and the certificate must be able to lead to an associate's and/or bachelor's degree in the future, as applicable.
- You can visit our [BHWET Paraprofessional Eligibility FAQs](#) for more information.