



notice of funding availability domestic violence and health care partnerships

Important Date

Letters of Inquiry Accepted:

Starting June 18, 2013, ongoing through May 9, 2014 (see foundation website for specific grant cycle information)

Brief Description:

Blue Shield of California Foundation invites applications that promote collaboration between domestic violence (DV) and health organizations to improve systems of DV care in the safety net.

Contact Information

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1. Introduction

Blue Shield of California Foundation's mission: Improve the lives of all Californians, particularly the underserved, by making health care accessible, effective, and affordable, and by ending domestic violence.

Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) is the state's largest private foundation working to end domestic violence (DV). Our Blue Shield Against Violence (BSAV) program prioritizes greater access to DV services and improving systems of DV care within California's safety net.

System-level improvements will require DV to be treated as an integrated component of the healthcare safety net, instead of as an isolated, stand-alone issue. For BSCF, this means working with stakeholders at the intersections of DV and health to develop cross-sector solutions for effectively addressing and preventing domestic violence.

BSCF invites grant proposals that promote collaboration between domestic violence and health organizations. This funding opportunity is for efforts that clearly demonstrate how these collaborations can improve systems of DV care and create new access points within the safety net. This first Notice of Funding Availability is intended to provide seed funding for new, innovative ideas and promising solutions to help achieve our vision of a violence-free society and a stronger, more integrated safety net.

2. Program Overview and Objectives

Program Overview

The intersection of DV and healthcare is dynamic, and continually evolving. Today, implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) expands women's preventive healthcare services to include DV screening and counseling, without cost-sharing under new health plans. This policy change creates opportunities and incentives for both DV and health providers to think creatively about new, strategic partnerships.

Practitioners, providers, and the entire healthcare system can play a key role in the early detection of domestic violence, and can have a significant impact on harm-reduction and the prevention of future abuse across a patient's lifespan. Moreover, exposure to violence can lead to costly, chronic conditions, increased utilization of emergency and inpatient services, and poor mental health. The ACA presents a tremendous opportunity for California domestic violence agencies and healthcare organizations to collaborate on organizational and system-wide innovations in DV service delivery.

However, while there is great potential, it is still unclear how such collaborations are best structured and supported (La Piana Consulting, June 2013, [“Intersections: Domestic Violence and Allied Organizations Partnering for Health”](#)). For healthcare providers, there are challenges that come with undertaking domestic violence work including: lack of training; confidentiality issues; competing priorities; discomfort with the issue; time constraints; and staff shortages and turnover. Reciprocally, DV service providers don't always know how to successfully navigate the specific culture and language of healthcare settings or may not have had the resources to partner effectively with health care providers. This funding will support innovations that address these barriers and develop collaborative solutions.

Objectives of this Work

BSCF's BSAV program seeks to build a broader, more comprehensive system of DV care in California by encouraging collaboration and integration between domestic violence and the health care safety net. This new funding area will support existing and new projects that represent the most promising practices to:

- Foster innovations in service delivery by connecting DV and health organizations;
- Cultivate leadership by building new resources for DV and health practitioners, including trainings;
- Promote policies and practices that support systematic DV screening in healthcare settings and other practices that promote early detection and prevention of DV/intimate partner violence; and
- Build the capacity of California DV services providers to connect clients to the healthcare system.

Selected grantees will have access to technical assistance to support new partnerships and collaboration, as well as tools to enable DV and health services integration. See below for more information.

Learning Network and Technical Assistance

Grants will be supported by a training and technical assistance component, as well as through a learning community. BSCF is currently partnering with Futures Without Violence and other experts to advance this work as quickly as possible and will disseminate learning across the health and DV fields.

- **Technical Assistance:** grantees will be provided with technical assistance to support the success of their projects. Technical assistance includes group trainings (in-person and webinars), peer exchange, one-on-one support, and other resources determined to be essential along the way. In this learning effort, technical assistance will be provided to help sustain grantees' new and improved capacities as they are developed through this funding.
- **Learning Network:** A network of grantee partners and advisors will support peer-learning and help to ensure that effective practices and lessons are captured and broadly shared across California's domestic violence and healthcare fields. The Learning Network will build knowledge around the intersections between DV and health and will support leadership within and across both fields. Grantees should anticipate participating in quarterly activity, at minimum, and budget for travel and time to participate.

More information about technical assistance and the Learning Network will be provided to selected grantees.

Values

The following values will guide the Foundation's efforts in this area:

- Success depends upon the cooperation and collaboration between healthcare and domestic violence experts. All partners bring unique and important experience and perspectives.
- Projects should demonstrate culturally appropriate practices, as well as input and/or leadership from communities of color, immigrants, lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgender, rural populations, and other underserved communities.
- All programs will promote the safety, autonomy, and confidentiality of victims of domestic violence.

3. Grant Information and Criteria

Grant Information

This is a competitive grant application process. The Foundation is open to different types of projects and collaborations and different types of funding requests. All Letters of Inquiry must meet the basic eligibility guidelines as outlined on the Foundation website, as well as the following criteria for DV and health care partnerships. Selected Letters of Inquiry will be invited to submit a full proposal following the foundation's grant cycle dates.

Criteria

- A current BSAV [grantee](#) (DV service provider) must be engaged as either project lead or formal project partner. We are open to models that include either a domestic violence or health organization as lead partner but the DV partner must have a formalized relationship (as evidenced by a financial agreement and/or MOU).
- Evidence of ability to collaborate.
- Commitment to learning and capacity and willingness to engage in learning network and evaluation activities.
- Demonstrated track record meeting the needs of culturally diverse and low-income Californians.
- Applicants will need to define a specific need, problem and/or opportunity they will address. We do not expect applicants to have fully developed ideas at the letter of inquiry stage, but the challenge or opportunity should be clearly stated along with initial thinking about ways to address it, and some rationale about the team's capability to generate solutions.

Other variables the Foundation will consider in selecting projects to fund:

- Collaborations between DV service providers and community health centers or Tribal Health Clinics are a priority; however, other collaborations will be considered. For example: collaborations that include school-based health centers, safety net emergency departments, hospitals, and county clinics.
- Existing partnerships will be prioritized, but new partnerships will be considered and are welcome to apply.
- Applicants should demonstrate evidence of practices and policies that prioritize family violence prevention and services, and an understanding of its impact on health.

Measuring success

With this funding, we seek to strengthen the capacity of healthcare and DV organizations to undertake needed transformation in the way that they practice. To that end, a successful DV and health partnership will result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- Sustained changes in clinical practice, including integrated assessment and response to violence.

- Training policy and protocols in the healthcare setting, including new systems (e.g. integration of prompts and supports for clinicians within a patient’s electronic health record) to support sustainability.
- Reforms that include DV partners in the care team and system of care.
- Sustain an ongoing relationship between partners.

4. Use of Funds

Grant requests may cover a variety of project expenses, including personnel, consultant fees, meeting and material costs. In addition, applicants may allocate up to 15% of the total grant request for indirect costs. Budgets should include \$5,000 per year for participation in the Learning Network and evaluation activities. Requests for general operating support will not be considered.

5. Grant Size and Term

Grant Size

Two-year grants for up to \$200,000 will be considered. The Foundation will consider extending successful projects, depending on outcomes, lessons learned, and emerging opportunities.

6. How to Apply

Apply through our online grant system using the following link:

<http://www.blueshieldcafoundation.org/grants/what-we-fund>

Note: The funding opportunity is located in Blue Shield Against Violence and Health Care and Coverage under our “**Foster innovations**” strategy to “Promote collaboration among health care and DV service providers”

7. Contact Information

Content Questions: For questions related to the eligibility or content of the application, contact:

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