

## **Zero Suicide: Regional Training Grants Announcement of Upcoming Funding Opportunity**

Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA) is pleased to announce the upcoming availability of funding to support regional Zero Suicide training grants. The funding is made possible by an increase in the federal mental health block grant (MHBG), part of which the Division of Care and Treatment Services/Department of Health Services (DHS) has provided to MHA for this effort.

We anticipate the release of a Request of Applications (RFA) in early November, to be due in mid-December. The RFA will provide details of the documentation that applicants will need to provide. Recognizing that this is a relatively short timeframe, we are providing some preliminary information so that interested organizations can begin discussions and planning.

The information is preliminary and is subject to change, but generally reflects what we anticipate will be contained in the final RFA.

### **Funds Available and Use of Funds**

Applicants can request up to \$20,000 for Zero Suicide (ZS) training. Because of the requirements of the MHBG, training must be directed primarily at clinical organizations that work with adults with serious mental illnesses and/or youth with serious emotional disturbances (SMI/SED) that wish to begin or expand implementation of ZS within their systems. The training may also include non-clinical organizations that are in positions to identify and refer individuals with SMI/SED to the clinical systems.

Applicants may propose a variety of training formats and goals, as long as the outcomes will be an increase in the adoption of ZS principles and practices within and/or across clinical and/or non-clinical organizations.

Examples of event formats that will be considered include the following:

- A 2-day ZS training that is comparable to the training that MHA has offered the past two years. MHA will make its training materials available to the applicant. The applicant must secure the participation of at least one MHA-approved ZS faculty member.
- A 1-2 day training event that might focus on a subset of specific ZS interventions that organizations in the region have indicated a willingness to learn and implement. E.g. use of the CSSRS across organizations in the region; use of collaborative safety planning; implementation of caring contacts by various facilities. The goal is to both educate and create a coordinated system of ZS care.
- A series of events that might take place over a longer period of time that serve the same goals noted above: to educate organizations about ZS practices and to create a coordinated system of ZS care.

In addition to offering this ZS training applicants may also propose to use a portion of the funds to support training for clinicians in one of the evidence-based/best practices for suicide prevention assessment, management and treatment. These would include (but are not limited to):

- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)
- Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicide (CAMS)
- Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Suicide Prevention ((CBT-SP)
- Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR)

Funds may be used to support the costs of faculty, materials and venue. Funds may also be used to support reasonable costs associated with the time of a local person to coordinate the trainings and work with MHA on implementation and evaluation. MHBG funds cannot be used to support food/beverage costs except in the case of a working lunch. Applicants are allowed and encouraged to require a fee for participants to support these costs. The local entity will need to address how support will be provided beyond the training for those organizations implementing ZS.

### **Eligible Applicants**

An organization that has participated in MHA-sponsored ZS training (or training provided at Henry Ford Health System) and continues to implement ZS must be the primary applicant. Instructions for documenting the ongoing implementation of ZS will be provided in the RFA.

Appropriate individuals from the DHS Area Administration for the region need to be involved to support regional promotion and outreach, especially to publicly funded service providers who serve individuals in the SMI/SED target group.

The involvement of local suicide prevention coalitions in the area is encouraged, where such coalitions exist. Inclusion of consumer, family and advocacy groups, especially those representing individuals with SMI/SED and/or their families is encouraged. Consistent with ZS principles the inclusion of people with lived experience in the planning and training is strongly encouraged.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity “region” may be defined as:

- A DHS region served by one Area Administration office.
- A Comprehensive Community Services region.
- A region served by a regional Crisis Intervention grant.
- Other definitions as proposed by the applicant and approved by MHA.

## **Timeframe**

We anticipate grants being awarded by the end of January 2019. All funds must be utilized by September 30, 2019 based on the MHBG requirements.

MHA is currently planning to hold its annual ZS training in Eau Claire the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>. Applicants are asked to avoid scheduling events in the two weeks prior or following that week. If there are scheduled events during this timeframe which would make sense to include as part of the application please talk with MHA about this prior to submitting your application.

## **For More Information**

Potential applicants may contact Shel Gross to discuss their ideas for an application or with questions regarding use of funds or eligibility:

Phone: 608-250-4368

Email: [shel@mhawisconsin.org](mailto:shel@mhawisconsin.org)

Shel can also provide contact information for approved faculty members, if potential applicants wish to initiate outreach.