

# BHECN ARPA Request for Proposals: A Toolkit

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**BHECN**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTER  
OF NEBRASKA



**University of Nebraska  
Medical Center**

# Welcome!



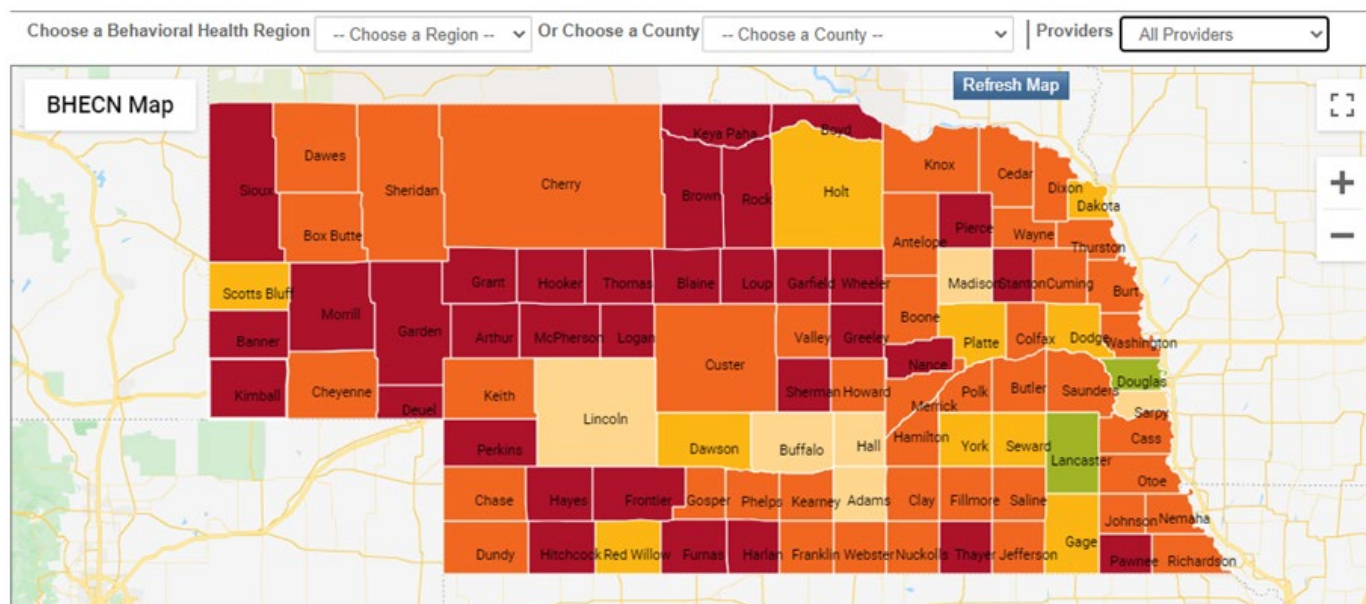
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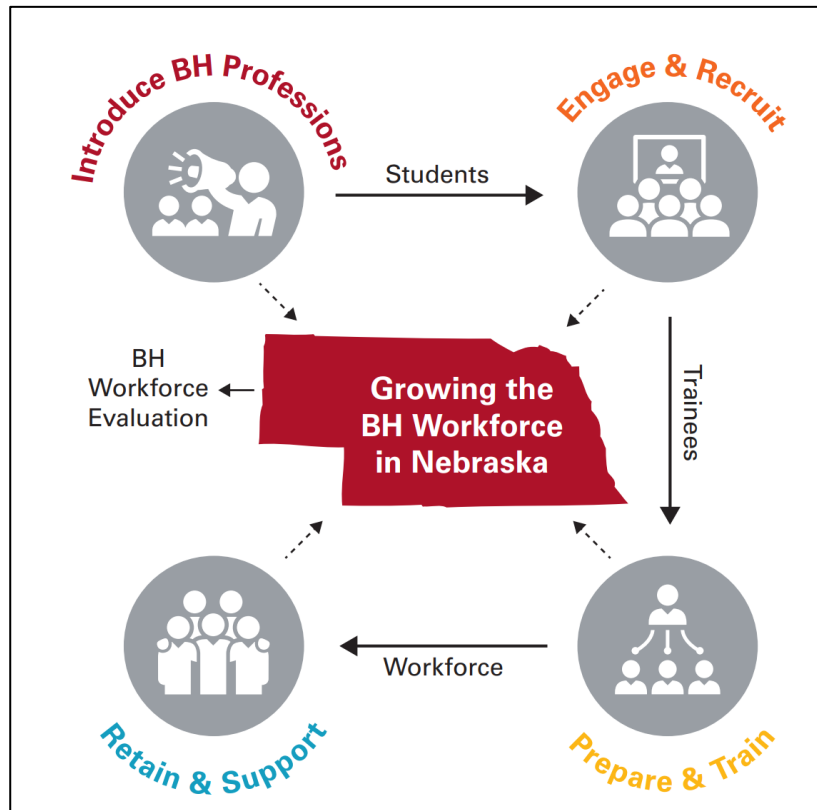
# What is BHECN?

- Established by state legislature in 2009
- Created to address the shortage of behavioral health providers in rural and underserved areas.



# What we do

**Mission:** BHECN is dedicated to improving access to behavioral health care across the state of Nebraska by developing a skilled and passionate workforce.



- Collect & Report Behavioral Health Workforce Data
- Recruit, Educate and Mentor Students
- Train and Retain Professionals

# Interim Study

LR143 - Interim study to examine the mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraskans, assess the shortages of providers, and determine what is needed to ensure an adequate behavioral health service delivery system

## Document Info

Introduced By: Stinner

Date of Introduction: May 12, 2021

## Text Copies

Introduced

- Process started in 2021
- Brought together working group of behavioral health stakeholders across the state
- BHECN identified as natural place for programming

# LB1014 – Nebraska ARPA Legislation

- ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act
- BHECN received \$25.5 million
- Content of bill based on interim study task force

Sec. 39. AGENCY NO. 51 – UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Program No. 781 - University - Administration

	<u>FY2021-22</u>	<u>FY2022-23</u>
<u>FEDERAL FUND</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>25,500,000</u>
<u>PROGRAM TOTAL</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>25,500,000</u>

There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23 \$25,500,000 Federal Funds for the Behavioral Health Education Center for the purposes described in section 71-830 to be spent by the Behavioral Health Education Center in the following manner:

(1) \$13,000,000 for graduate and postgraduate training opportunities such as internships, practicums, and fellowships;

(2) \$8,000,000 for the expansion of telebehavioral health services in rural areas;

(3) \$2,500,000 for education and training opportunities for students and behavioral health professionals related to behavioral health issues caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

(4) \$2,000,000 for stipends for provisionally licensed behavioral

# ARPA Funding Categories

1. Behavioral Health Training Opportunities
2. Telebehavioral health support in rural areas
3. Behavioral health workforce projects for students and behavioral health professionals related to behavioral health issues caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency
4. Licensed Professional Support for Supervision

# ARPA Application Process

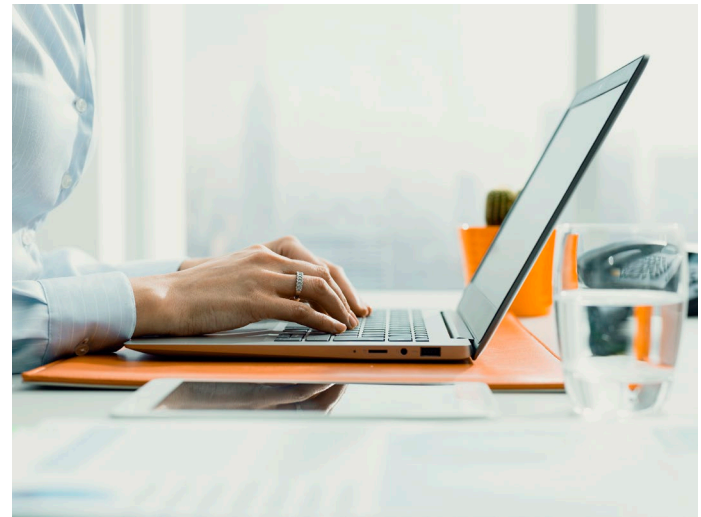


- Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will be open to *any* provider/organization in Nebraska
  - Tentatively will open July 2022
- Applicants can request funding for up to 3 years



# ARPA Application Process

1. Online application
2. Will be scored by an independent review committee
3. Awarded on a quarterly basis
4. On-going reporting on outcomes will be required



# Behavioral health training opportunities

Projects in this award category should focus on providing training and clinical experience opportunities for behavioral health students, trainees and professionals. Proposed budgets should not exceed \$500,000.

Projects in this category could include:

- Psychology Internships
- Licensed Mental Health Practitioner Internships and Practicums
- Advanced Practice Provider Fellowships
- Psychiatric nursing training experiences
- Psychiatry Fellowships
- Executive Fellowships
- Behavioral health Certification Programs
- Other time-limited training opportunities

# Telebehavioral health support in rural areas

Projects in this award category should focus on increasing access to behavioral healthcare through telebehavioral services. Proposed budgets should not exceed \$1,000,000.

Projects in this category could include:

- Telebehavioral health equipment
- Technical assistance
- Establishment of a state-wide telebehavioral health network
- Telebehavioral health training and certification
- Behavioral Health Consultant Network
- Other telebehavioral health support and/or programs

# **Behavioral health workforce projects for students and behavioral health professionals related to behavioral health issues caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency**

Projects in this award category should focus on providing educational programs and recruitment and retention projects related to the behavioral health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proposed budgets should not exceed \$100,000. Projects could include:

- Education on behavioral health impacts of COVID-19
- Education on behavioral health workforce impacts of COVID-19
- Resiliency training
- Wellness initiatives
- Provider/caregiver burnout
- Recruitment and retention initiatives for behavioral health students and providers
- Other behavioral health educational programs related to COVID-19

# Funding for licensed behavioral health supervisors

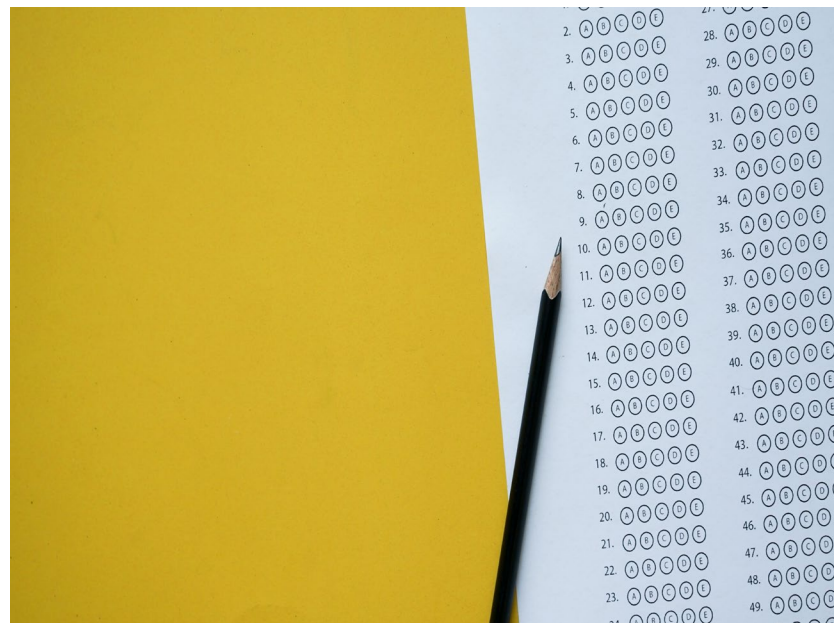
Projects in this award category should be focused on supporting supervision costs as organizations/providers supervise provisionally licensed behavioral health professionals.

Proposed budgets should not exceed \$100,000. Projects could include:

- Stipends for supervision
- Support for licensure application requirements
- Other support to enhance the path to licensure

# Application Checklist – Decide on award category

- ☐ Pick your award category.
- ☐ You can apply for multiple awards.  
Click to add text
- ☐ Each project should have its' own application.
- ☐ Identify a project lead



# Application Checklist – Gather demographics

- ☐ Counties your organization serves
- ☐ Demographics of your clients:
  - ☐ Ages
  - ☐ Acceptance of Medicaid/sliding scale fee
  - ☐ Percentage of non-English speaking clients
- ☐ Organizational capacity related to chosen award category



# Application Checklist – Think about program evaluation

- ☐ Develop your program evaluation
  - ☐ What is the desired outcome?
  - ☐ How will you determine success?
  - ☐ Who will conduct the evaluation?
  - ☐ What measurable outcomes will you track?





# Application Checklist – Letters of support

- ☐ Letters of support
  - ☐ Optional
  - ☐ Demonstrate support from organization and/or stakeholders



# Application Checklist - Budget

☐ Develop a budget and budget justification for your proposed project with the following budget categories (categories are subject to change prior to application release):

1. Salaries
2. Benefits
3. Operating Expenses
4. Consultant/Contract Services
5. Travel and Transportation
6. Supplies and Equipment
7. Training and Conferences
8. Measurement and Evaluation Expenditures
9. Other Expenses (provide explanation)



# Application Overview – Category 1

- ☐ Gather information on your current behavioral health trainee program (if applicable)
- ☐ Demographics the trainee will serve:
  - Ages
  - Percentage of clients living in NE
  - Percentage of non-English speaking clients
- ☐ Develop a supervision plan for trainees
- ☐ Gather information on the supervisor(s):
  - Good standing with the licensing board?
  - License suspended/revoked?
  - Experience providing supervision
- ☐ Develop plan for ensuring trainees are receiving the clinical experiences they need



# Application Overview – Category 2

- ☐ Gather data on why your proposed telebehavioral health project is needed in your community
- ☐ Gather information on how this project will increase access to behavioral healthcare in rural communities (specific to workforce recruitment or training)
- ☐ Behavioral health regions your project will serve
- ☐ Decide what community support you may need to implement the project

# Application Overview – Category 3

- ☐ Decide what type of workforce project related to COVID you will implement:
  - Education
  - Recruitment and/or retention
  - Research
  
- ☐ Target audience for your project
  
- ☐ Behavioral health region where project will occur
  
- ☐ Gather information on why the project is needed, specifically as it relates to the behavioral health impacts of COVID-19

# Application Overview – Category 4

- ☐ Decide the number of provisionally licensed professionals your organization will be supervising
- ☐ What counties the provisionally licensed professional will serve
- ☐ Decide on a supervision plan
- ☐ Gather information on the supervisor(s):
  - ☐ Good standing with the licensing board?
  - ☐ License suspended/revoked?
  - ☐ Experience providing supervision
- ☐ Develop plan for ensuring provisionally licensed professionals are receiving the clinical experiences they need for licensure

# Review Process

- An independent review committee will be reviewing each application
- There will be separate review committees for each of the four categories
- Review committees will be scoring applications based on:
  - Organizational capacity
  - Feasible and effective project plans
  - Thorough explanation on how project will increase access to behavioral healthcare
  - Comprehensive evaluation
  - Capacity to increase BH access in rural NE
- Review criteria will be shared when applications are reviewed



# Next Steps

1. ARPA Website launch – coming soon!
2. Application Writing Workshop – mid-June
3. Online application process opens – tentatively July 2022
4. Review process – August 2022
5. First round of funding tentatively awarded by September 30, 2022

## **Tentative Schedule – FY1 (2022-2023)**

Quarter 1: July – September

Quarter 2: October – December

Quarter 3: January – March

Quarter 4: April – June



# Questions

Questions can be sent to BHECN at  
[bhecn@unmc.edu](mailto:bhecn@unmc.edu)

Be sure to sign up for our listserv on the BHECN website: <https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/index.html>