



# News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Tracy Plouck, Director

**July 28, 2017**

**>>> SFY 2018-19 RFA Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative (MHA18-BHWI-Workforce Initiative-22)**

Ohio is experiencing a shortage of new entry-level behavioral health professionals as well as an inability to retain and support, on a long term basis, our existing behavioral health professionals at community behavioral health agencies. The Department has \$6 million in funding included in the SFY 2018-19 biennial budget to assist OhioMHAS-certified community behavioral health providers with hiring/developing new entry-level behavioral health professionals and to incentivize existing behavioral health professionals in attaining a higher level of professional recognition (credential). OhioMHAS will prioritize funding to community behavioral health providers who indicate they will implement or expand workforce capacity associated with serving the deaf and hard of hearing populations.

The initiative will provide one-time funding of up to \$100,000 to each awarded community behavioral health provider that is regulated (certified/licensed) by OhioMHAS to support provider administered workforce development programs. The award will be made for SFY18 or SFY19 to providers that accomplish the following (in no particular order):

- Assist with defraying loss of direct service revenue when staff at the agency are involved with providing training supervision related to professional licensure/credentialing.
- Provide funding for an agency to use for a student loan repayment program.
- Provide funding for an agency to use for a tuition payment and/or reimbursement program.

It is expected that the funding will be used to create new or to enhance existing professional development programs. The following table represents the behavioral health professionals (by credential hierarchy within each profession) the funding can be used to support. This includes individuals who are pursuing an educational track for the assistant/trainee credential(s):

<b>Qualifying Behavioral Health Professional Credentials</b>			
<b>Chemical Dependency</b>	<b>Social Work</b>	<b>Marriage and Family Therapists</b>	<b>Professional Counselors</b>
CS Endorsement	Supervisory Designation	Supervisory Designation	LPCC-S
LICDC	LISW	LIMFT	LPCC
LCDC II/III	LSW	LMFT	LPC
CDCA	SWA/SWT	MFTT	CT

**Applications must be submitted electronically to [BHWI@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:BHWI@mha.ohio.gov) by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 1.** All questions must be submitted electronically to [BHWI@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:BHWI@mha.ohio.gov) with “Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative Question” in the subject line by 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 28. Responses will be posted to the [OhioMHAS Funding Opportunities page](#).

### **Supporting Documents\***

[BWHI Guidance and Application/Request for Funding Form](#)

[2018 Agreement and Assurances](#)

\*BHWI Expenditure Reporting Form will be posted and provided to awarded organizations upon announcement of funding.

### **In the News**

7.28.17 | *Akron Beacon Journal* [Tackling stigmas associated with mental health can start acknowledgement and compassion](#)

7.28.17 | *CNN* [From addict to Ironman](#) (story about Ohio’s Todd Crandell, founder of Racing for Recovery)

7.28.17 | *Teen Vogue* [Young people want to take care of their mental health, report shows](#)

7.27.17 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [‘Recovering Hope’ series highlights journeys to overcome opioid addiction](#)

7.26.17 | *Canton Repository* [CommQuest CEO honored](#)

7.26.17 | *MedicalXPress* [Study finds mental health court curbs recidivism](#)

7.25.17 | *Chillicothe Gazette* [Locals eye ways to bring federal money home](#)

7.25.17 | *Fremont News-Messenger* [Sandusky County chosen for children services programs](#)

7.25.17 | *WDTN-TV* [Montgomery County unveils plans for juvenile treatment center](#)

7.25.17 | *The New York Times* [How to be better at stress](#)

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