



MENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO REPORT

AN EVALUATION OF MENTAL HEALTH
GRANTS AWARDED IN 2017
(REPORT RELEASED IN 2020)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Health Forward Foundation is pleased to release the 2017 Mental Health Portfolio Report highlighting our 2017 Mental Health grantees. This report marks the first year of data collection and analysis around a set of common strategies, outcomes, and indicators. We are encouraged by the progress our grantees have made and are humbled by their dedication to the clients that they serve. Health Forward is using the enhanced data to better understand the needs of the community, the work of our grantees, and the impact of our investments.

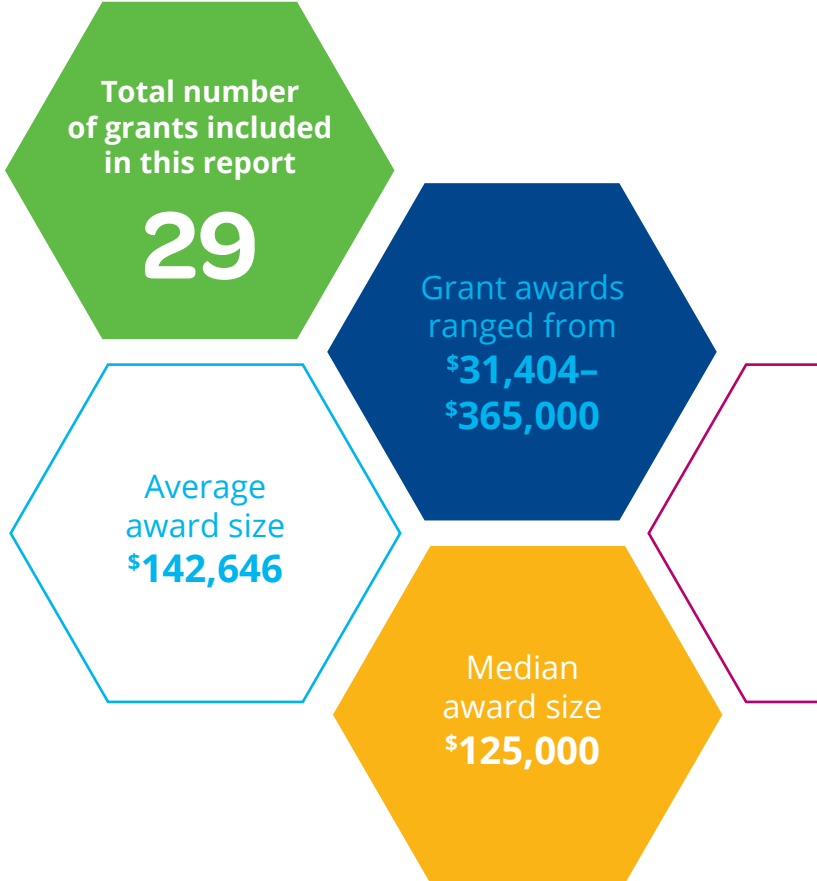
2017 MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

This report is the first time Mental Health grantees have reported grant results within the theory of change framework. We are excited to now be able to see the scope of accomplishments across the larger Mental Health portfolio.

Our grantees were encouraged to select the most relevant strategies, outcomes, and indicators for their grant-funded program. Grantees collected and reported a significant amount of evidence to support the outcomes of their grants. However, this report represents only a portion of the work done by our grantees; they address a wide variety of community health needs that are not acknowledged in this report.

Portfolio Overview

In 2017, Health Forward issued awards totaling \$4.14 million to 29 grantees* through the Mental Health request for proposals.



* This report includes data from final grant reports from the 25 Mental Health grantees who were awarded 12-month grant terms in 2017, as well as data from annual grant reports for four multi-year grantees, for a total of 29 grantees.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Strategies

Short-term outcomes

Improve Capacity

- Advance strategies that deepen workforce and leadership capacity.
- Fund core operating support that leads to organizational improvement, builds infrastructure, or promotes sustainability.
- Develop strategic and accountable partnerships that lead to enhanced continuum of care.

Improve Capacity

- Increased retention of quality staff and leadership.
- Improved organizational structures that promote sustainable, high-quality service.
- Enhanced partnerships that improve efficiency and sustainability.



Improve Access

- Promote policies, practices, and technology that increase coverage, affordability, and availability of services.
- Support place-based services and strategies.
- Encourage coordinated care and collaboration among multiple agencies and partners.
- Support outreach strategies to inform and engage target populations.

Improve Access

- More affordable, available, and convenient treatment and preventive services.
- Consumers successfully navigate through service delivery systems.
- Improved individual and community engagement in mental/behavioral health wellness.



Improve Quality Practice

- Encourage the use of emerging or best practices that are evidence based.
- Support services that are family-focused, person-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed.
- Support the integration of services into primary care settings.

Improve Quality Practice

- Improved mental/behavioral health outcomes for consumers.
- Improved use of evidence-based practices in service delivery.
- Consumer satisfaction with service delivery.
- Greater integration of services.



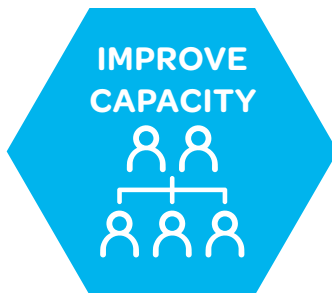
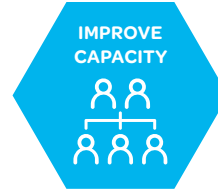
Long-term outcomes

Better health
Better care

STRATEGY AND OUTCOMES OVERVIEW

The Mental Health theory of change describes three areas through which Health Forward funding and grantee activities are intended to foster long-term change in better health and care.

Health Forward requires grantees to select at least one strategy and one outcome from our theory of change. Grantees use a number of sub-strategies and report gains in outcomes within and across their organizations and for their consumers. Some grantees selected multiple strategies and outcomes.



Strategy #1: Improving capacity within mental health service organizations

- Advance strategies that deepen workforce and leadership capacity: **13 grantees**
- Fund core operating support that leads to organizational improvement, builds infrastructure, or promotes sustainability: **11 grantees**
- Develop strategic and accountable partnerships that lead to an enhanced continuum of care: **10 grantees**

Outcomes

- Increased retention of quality staff and leadership: **11 grantees**
- Improved organizational structures that promote sustainable, high-quality service: **14 grantees**
- Enhanced partnerships that improve efficiency and sustainability: **10 grantees**

STRATEGY AND OUTCOMES OVERVIEW



Strategy #2: Improving individual and community access to mental health resources and care

- Support place-based services and strategies: **15 grantees**
- Promote policies, practices and technology that increase coverage, affordability and availability of care: **11 grantees**
- Encourage coordinated care and linkages among multiple agencies and partners: **12 grantees**
- Support outreach strategies to inform and engage target populations: **10 grantees**

Outcomes

- More affordable, available, and convenient preventive and treatment services: **15 grantees**
- Consumers successfully navigate through service delivery systems: **9 grantees**
- Improved individual and community engagement in mental/behavioral health and wellness: **9 grantees**



Strategy #3: Improving quality practice among mental health providers and systems

- Encourage the use of emerging or best practices that are evidence-based: **22 grantees**
- Support services that are family-focused, person-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed: **18 grantees**
- Support the integration of services into primary care settings: **5 grantees**
- Align strategically with local, regional, or state coalitions and networks: **3 grantees**

Outcomes

- Improved mental/behavioral health outcomes for consumers: **20 grantees**
- Improved use of evidence-based practices in service delivery: **17 grantees**
- Consumer satisfaction with service delivery: **13 grantees**
- Greater integration of services: **6 grantees**



PROJECT REACH

Health Forward-funded activities
reached 16,586 individuals
during this grant cycle.

In total however, these same organizations
reported reaching approximately
375,598 individuals in 2017
through all of their programming.¹

¹This figure does not account for duplicated individuals who may have accessed services from multiple organizations.



INSIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

STRENGTHS

- Staff expertise and dedication to their project work was one of the most commonly cited grantee strengths.
 - Staffing and capacity changes helped several grantees reduce wait times and provide faster access to services.
 - External factors — including heightened public awareness and support for addressing the opioid epidemic — have also had a positive impact on grantees' work.
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CHALLENGES

- A number of grantees reported that staff turnover and difficulty filling vacancies with qualified staff posed a significant challenge to their work and their capacity.
- Grantees report challenges in providing adequate translation and interpretation services and resources to their clients.
- External factors, including the rising cost of housing, stigma around mental health, and a growing need for mental health and other services has strained grantees' ability to provide treatment and meet the community's overwhelming needs.
- Client barriers to accessing services remain a challenge for grantees' effective service delivery. These include lack of transportation and child care, as well as difficulties related to scheduling or reducing missed appointments.
- Lack of adequate funding and the need for consistent and diverse funding streams were other barriers.
- Grantees have a continuing need for support in implementing and effectively using electronic health record systems, creating greater efficiency in data collection and management, and accurately measuring and evaluating their work.

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

LESSONS LEARNED

- Grantees are learning new approaches and strategies for addressing extended wait times for services and providing immediate care for acute cases.
- Grantees are building deeper and more trusting relationships with other staff, their clients, and the communities they serve.
- Grantees are learning how to meet clients where they are and adapt their activities to address the unique and changing needs of the communities they serve in the face of a shifting social and political landscape.
- Grantees are learning how to compensate for limited staff capacity or address gaps in services using adaptive, creative solutions.
- Grantees are learning how to better capture the outcomes and impacts of their work and to use that data to greater effect.



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