

Do you want to better engage young people to reduce depression, anxiety and suicide in your community? We can help you get there.

An opportunity for any organization that is regularly engaged with young people

2018 Pilot Call for Applications

Release Date: Wednesday, August 29 | Submission Date: Friday, October 5, 11:59 p.m. ET

Purpose

The National Council for Behavioral Health (National Council) invites you to apply for a new, two-year learning opportunity aimed at increasing youth engagement in quality, appropriate mental health supports. With the intent to reduce rates and impact of anxiety, depression and suicide among young people aged 10 to 24 in underserved populations – including culturally diverse, rural, LGBTQ+ and others – this project aims to:

1. Connect young people to new types of mental health supports in five communities with guidance and support from mentors, coaches and experts.
2. Connect 20 youth to each other and these communities as leaders and advisors to elevate their experience and voice as well as support implementation of engagement strategies put into effect by pilot sites.
3. Connect communities with these new approaches to increase awareness and availability.
4. Connect applicants to funding to support their efforts (up to \$100,000 per site).

This two-year learning opportunity seeks approaches – within and beyond traditional health care settings – that have been found to be effective in supporting youth to grow into healthy, happy adults. Do you have a new approach that you would like to implement that will facilitate community partnerships, increase awareness, decrease loneliness or offer a clinical/social intervention? Apply to be one of five sites and receive tailored training and technical assistance to make it a reality.

Eligibility and Submission

To be considered, all you need to do is pull together some initial information that includes:

- *Expression of Interest (optional)*: Please provide your [contact information](#) by Friday, September 14, to ensure you receive updates and to help us adequately respond to the level of interest in this opportunity.

- **Organization and Approach:** A brief description of your organization, the community and the population of youth you intend to serve and the approach, practice or program you wish to implement, including how it will impact young people and address current gaps in engagement with services. Approaches should fit in one of the following broad categories:
 1. **Partnerships:** Increase connections between important players in the lives of young people that help ensure young people have timely and effective engagement in mental health supports. Partnerships can be either formal or informal and either within your organization or in the broader community.
 2. **Increasing Awareness:** Increase a community's knowledge about depression, anxiety and suicide in young people, including connecting the broader community or family, peers or organizational staff in awareness building activities.
 3. **Decrease Loneliness:** Focus on adolescents and supports that contribute to positive connectivity with others.
 4. **Clinical and Social Interventions:** Connect young people to direct services or supports that improve adolescent mental health.
- **Implementation:** Reflect in your submission that necessary personnel, infrastructure and/or financial resources are in place to successfully implement and continue your efforts and commit to fully participate in the learning opportunity and all activities.
- **Youth Engagement:** As part of the submission process, you must also nominate five to 10 youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who you feel would be a good fit for involvement in implementation of your project. These youth should be identified by name, age and email address. To assist in your outreach to youth, we encourage you to share this [informational handout](#) to help them understand more about potential participation.
- **Budget Justification:** Please include a brief explanation of how you intend to use the up to \$100,000 incentive payment.

Total Award

Five pilot sites will receive up to \$100,000 each for participation in this initiative.