

County of El Dorado
Health and Human Services Agency
Behavioral Health Division



FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA)
COMMUNITY EDUCATION INITIATIVE APPLICATION

for

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
and safeTALK



HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES AGENCY
EL DORADO COUNTY
Transforming Lives and Improving Futures

Submittal Deadline:
Round 1 July 15, 2026, not later than 5:00:00 PM (Pacific)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this application process is to award Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Community Education Initiative funding to individuals who will facilitate Mental Health First Aid or safeTALK courses in the community, with the intent of increasing access to MHFA and safeTALK education for El Dorado County residents. These courses will be tailored to priority populations including but not limited to rural residents, youth, older adults, veterans and tribal communities.

By equipping local instructors to provide these trainings, the initiative increases access to care by empowering community members to recognize signs of mental health challenges, respond effectively, and connect individuals to appropriate services. This approach reduces stigma, promotes early intervention, and strengthens pathways to behavioral health resources. Additionally, the program supports workforce development by creating opportunities for residents to gain specialized certifications, enhancing local capacity for prevention and crisis response. These efforts align with BHSA goals to build a skilled, culturally responsive workforce and improve community engagement in behavioral health care.

The County makes no specific guarantee of a minimum amount of funding awarded; however, a single Recipient is eligible for up to \$5,000 per fiscal year (FY) and may be certified in one program per FY.

The following schedule is for reference only and may be subject to change:

Application Issuance	July 1, 2026
Due Date for Submissions	July 15, 2026
Award Notices Sent (on or around)	July 30, 2026
Signed Award Notices Due	August 15, 2026
Anticipated Contract Execution	October 15, 2026

1.1 Mental Health First Aid Project

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Project is an evidence-based practice that introduces course participants to the risk factors associated with mental illness. It also identifies warning signs of mental health issues, builds understanding of the impact of mental illness, and provides an overview of common treatments. Curriculum established by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing includes Adult, Youth and Teen courses, as well as specialized curriculum that emphasizes military veterans, rural communities, and indigenous peoples. Additionally, Spanish language curriculum is available for Adult and Youth courses.

1.2 safeTALK Project

The safeTALK Project is a four-hour evidence-based training that utilizes curriculum developed by LivingWorks. Through this training community members will learn how to reach out to someone thinking about suicide and help keep them safe by connecting them with further support. Curriculum helps break down the stigma of suicide in the

community and can be specialized for education & youth, the workplace, faith leaders, military & veterans, and first responders.

1.3 Exclusions

Any individual receiving compensation or funding for the administration of MHFA and safeTALK courses, in whole or in part, from any other source shall not be eligible for BHSA Community Education Initiative funding. Employees of the El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) shall not be eligible for BHSA Community Education Initiative funding.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

BHSA Community Education Initiative awards shall be used for the following purposes:

1. To obtain certification as a Mental Health First Aid instructor through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.
OR
2. To obtain certification as a safeTALK instructor through LivingWorks.
AND/OR
3. To provide El Dorado County residents with certified course instruction using any of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's available course curriculums or LivingWorks course curriculums.
4. Provide course and certification to community members without charge for MHFA or safeTALK.

Recipient shall commit to instructing a minimum number of MHFA or safeTALK courses during the fiscal year in which the funding is awarded.

2.1 Reporting Requirements

Recipient shall collect and provide data as required in order to document provided services and demonstrate the outcomes of the BHSA Project. This includes information identified in the Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS) Workforce Education Training (WET) regulations as defined by the <https://policy-manual.mes.dhcs.ca.gov/behavioral-health-services-act-county-policy-manual/LIVE/7-bhsa-components-and-requirements#LIVE7.BHSAComponentsandRequirements-A.4WorkforceEducationandTraining> to the extent it is available, and in a format approved by HHSA BHD.

Reports must include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Respondent shall submit evidence of current MHFA certification from the National Council of Mental Wellbeing or current safeTALK certification from LivingWorks within fifteen (15) days of contract execution or within fifteen (15) days of course completion.
2. Quarterly: Within thirty (30) days of the end of each quarter, Recipient shall submit to HHSA BHD documentation of each course facilitated and completed

Class Evaluations for the reporting period. Report shall include the names of attendees, Course Type (Youth, Teen, Adult), and any specialized curriculum focus, if applicable. Quarters shall be defined as January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December. Reports shall be submitted to BHAdmin@edcgov.us.

Fiscal Year Reports: Within thirty (30) days of the end of each fiscal year, defined as ending June 30 of each calendar year, contractor shall submit unduplicated totals of the number of clients served, services performed, total billed service cost, and service locations for the term of this Agreement. Additionally, all State required data, forthcoming State policy detailing Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability and Transparency Report (BHOATR) data requirements shall be provided by County to Contractor, in accordance with the Article titled Notice to Parties, within 30 days of the BHOATR policy release. 

BHSA Community Education Initiative recipients who do not meet reporting requirements may be ineligible for future BHSA Community Education Initiative awards.

3.0 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All Applicants must complete and submit Attachment A – Application, containing the Applicant's name, address, contact information and original signature.

Applicants shall submit their completed application via email to BHAdmin@edcgov.us or by mail to 768 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite 201, Diamond Springs, CA 95619. ATTN: BH Administrative Team

Fiscal Year 2026/27 Round 1 applications must be received on or before July 15, 2026, not later than 5:00:00 PM (Pacific). If funding permits, additional FY 26/27 Rounds may be released at a later date.

4.0 EVALUATION & AWARD PROCEDURE

All applications will be reviewed internally to determine eligibility. An evaluation panel, consisting of County staff and members selected by County staff, will review and evaluate all applications received. The County reserves the right to request additional information and clarification of any information submitted.

Eligible applications will be reviewed and assigned an award allocation between \$0 and \$5,000 until all funds are exhausted. All applicants will receive a Notification of Award Allocation on or around July 30, 2026.

To receive funds, all individuals selected for an award must have a current business license and establish themselves as a vendor with the County. To complete these steps, visit the following sites:

- i. To obtain a business license in El Dorado County go to <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/County-Government/County-Departments/Treasurer-Tax-Collector>
- ii. To become a vendor with the County, submit a Payee Data Record Form and a Vendor Request Form. These forms can be found at <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/County-Government/County-Departments/Auditor-Controller/Accounting/Vendor-Requirements>

4.1 Distribution of Award Allocation

Funding Out Agreements will be developed and executed with County and Awardee signatures. After funds are awarded and Contracts executed (all signatures collected), awarded applicants shall follow the instructions detailed in their contract to invoice the county for the full amount of the award.

5.0 OPTIONAL

After contracts are executed, awardee may request curriculum materials from County at no additional cost by emailing BHAdmin@edcgov.us

After contracts are executed, awardee may request contact information be posted on the BHSA Community Education webpage: <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Health-Well-Being/Behavioral-Health/Behavioral-Health-Services-Act-BHSA/Community-Education>.