



Request for Proposals Supported Employment Services for Individuals with Mental Illness

The Patrick P. Lee Foundation is a private family foundation dedicated to having immediate and measurable impact in Education and Mental Health. Special attention is given to funding opportunities at the intersection of these key investment areas.

Since its establishment in 2007, the Lee Foundation has helped individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency by supporting workforce training programs and scholarships for post-secondary education. As part of its work, the Lee Foundation is committed to creating opportunities for individuals with serious mental illness to competitively participate in the workforce.

The unemployment rate in the United States for individuals receiving public mental health services is 80 percent. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) report Road to Recovery: Employment and Mental Illness, the majority of individuals with mental illness want to work and approximately 6 out of 10 can succeed with appropriate supports in place. In addition to financial stability, employment provides individuals with identity, purpose and a sense of belonging, which have proven to be critical elements of recovery from mental illness.

Guidelines for Grant Applications

The Lee Foundation invites nonprofit organizations to submit proposals for evidence-based supported employment services that provide long term employment opportunities for individuals with mental illness. Grant requests may not exceed \$50,000 per year. Multi- year grant requests will be considered.

Applications are due February 15, 2018. All application materials should be submitted via email to jmogavero@lee.foundation.

The Grant Program

Supported Employment Services for Individuals with Mental Illness

The purpose of the Supported Employment Services for Individuals with Mental Illness is to create economic opportunities for individuals with mental illnesses. Effective employment models exist for people with mental illness; unfortunately, a significant number of people with mental illness do not receive adequate support for long-term success in the workforce.

Supported Employment helps people with serious mental illness achieve self-sufficiency and recovery. Key characteristics of supported employment programs include:

- Focus on competitive employment
- Rapid job search assistance
- Integrated work setting
- Focus on personal preferences and strengths of the participants
- Individualized long term supports

The expected outcome of the program is to increase the number of individuals with serious mental illness who obtain and retain gainful employment.

The Grant Application Process

Request for Proposals

The Lee Foundation seeks to partner with nonprofit organizations that provide supported employment services to individuals with mental illness. Successful applications will utilize evidence-based supported employment models.

Organizations interested in applying must meet the following criteria:

- Nonprofit corporation with proof of 501(c)(3) status
- Strong leadership and board involvement
- Proven track record of working with individuals with mental illness
- Demonstrated ability to foster collaborations and working relationships with other organizations and constituencies in the community
- Serve individuals residing in the eight counties of Western New York and/or the State of Florida in the counties of Monroe and Miami-Dade.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Demonstrate collaboration and coordination among multiple agencies to support and manage the supported employment program
- Braid or blend funding streams
- Partner with a corporate entity to develop long term strategies for supported employment opportunities for individuals with mental illness
- Integrate mental health services and supports with supported employment

Funding will not be provided for the following:

- Grants to individuals
- Capital campaign and building projects
- Endowment funds
- Fundraising activities

The Grant Review Process

Application Procedures

Please submit an application containing all of the items specified below, including requested attachments.

We will contact you if we have any questions or require additional information. We will acknowledge receipt of your application within four business days.

Application Contents

Your application must include:

- Cover letter signed by Executive Director or CEO
- Executive Summary
- Organizational Background (mission, major activities and credentials for carrying out project)
- Contact Information for Grant Proposal
- Narrative (no more than five pages) that includes:
 - Brief statement of problem to be addressed
 - Project/Program Description
 - Goals and Objectives and how they will be measured (e.g. track participants length of employment)
 - Target Audience
 - Project Activities
 - Key Staff (with attached resumes)
 - Plan for measuring project results
- Project Budget (expenses and income)
- Conclusion (brief statement of long-term project plan)
- Appendices
 - Verification of tax-exempt status (IRS determination letter)
 - List of officers and Board of Directors
 - Organizational operating budget
 - Latest financial statement (audited, preferred)

- List of other current funding sources
- Letters of support from collaborative partners (if applicable)

Timeline for Applications and Notification

- January 15 2017- Deadline for organizations to submit written questions and non-mandatory notice of intent
- February 15, 2018- Deadline for submitting proposals
Applications must be emailed to jmogavero@lee.foundation by 5pm (EST)
- April 2018 – Lee Foundation notifies applicants of funding decisions