

# Iowa Department of Public Health



## Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts Grant Program

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Authorship – Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

● Prepared By – Megan Hartwig ● December 2018

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Gov. Kim Reynolds

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IDPH Director: Gerd W. Clabaugh

### Report Contact:

Megan Hartwig, Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

[megan.hartwig@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:megan.hartwig@idph.iowa.gov)

515-499-4467

**Introduction:**

This report is prepared annually in response to Sec. 58. Section 135.181, Code 2016, which was amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The Department shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly no later than January 1, annually that includes but is not limited to all of the following:

- a. The number of applications received for the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- b. The number of applications approved and the total amount of funding awarded in grants in the preceding fiscal year.
- c. The cost of administering the program in the immediately preceding fiscal year.
- d. Recommendations for any changes to the program.

**Background**

Chapter 135.181 establishes a board-certified behavior analyst and board-certified assistant behavior analyst grants program under the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The program functions within the Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention, Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems.

The board-certified behavior analyst and board-certified behavior analyst grants program, or Behavior Analyst Grants Program, provides grants to Iowa resident and nonresident applicants who have been accepted for admission or are attending a Board of Regents university, community college or an accredited private institution; are enrolled in a program to be eligible for board certification as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst; and demonstrate financial need. The goal of this program is to expand the number of board-certified behavior analysts (BCBA) and board-certified assistant behavior analysts (BCaBA) to provide applied behavior analysis and treatment to Iowans.

IDPH established “Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCBA/BCaBA) Grants Program” pursuant to the authority of the 2015 Iowa Acts, Senate File 505, section 68, and 2016 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2109, section 57 in the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 107. These rules became effective November 16, 2016, and were amended effective July 12, 2017.

**Report to the 2019 Legislature**

A fund separate from the general fund was created under the control of the department and received an appropriation of \$250,000 in state fiscal years (SFY) 2016 and 2017. The department released a request for proposal (RFP) in January 2018 with funds distributed in State Fiscal Year 2018. A second RFP will be released in December 2018 with funds being distributed in State Fiscal Year 2019. IDPH will select applicants to receive an education and training grant for tuition and fees associated with obtaining certification as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst.

**The number of applications received for the immediately preceding fiscal year:**

In SFY 2018, 16 applications were submitted in the IowaGrants.gov management system.

**The number of applications approved and the total amount of grant funding awarded in the immediately preceding fiscal year:**

Six applicants were approved for funding through the competitive grants process. All 6 applicants received contracts. All six awardees are Iowa residents. Three awarded applicants are attending Drake University in Iowa and three awardees are attending online programs. The total amount of funds granted with this round of applicants is \$53,575.

Applicants are obligated to provide two years of behavior analyst services to Iowans post education and certification.

**The cost of administering the program in the immediately preceding fiscal year:**

Administrative support for this program is provided without funds allocated for administration. Department staff who provide administrative support and program management are paid through competitive federal grant programs for rural health. No funds were appropriated to the program in SFY19.

**Recommendations for any changes to the program:**

IDPH recommends an appropriation of least \$12,500 annually to support administrative costs of the program. Program evaluation will continue and recommended changes may include a review of the administrative rules and program procedures.