



2019 Annual Report

Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst Grant Program

Authorship – Deputy Director’s Office - Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services

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Iowa Department of Public Health
Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans



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List of Acronyms

IDPH	Iowa Department of Public Health
BCBA.....	Board Certified Behavior Analyst
BCaBA	Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst
RFP.....	Request for Proposal

Executive Summary

This report is prepared annually in response to Iowa Code section 135.181(4)

Background

Chapter 135.181 establishes 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 Deputy Director's Office in the Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services.

The board-certified behavior analyst and board-certified assistant 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.

Report to the Legislature

A fund separate from the general fund was created under the control of the department and received a total appropriation of \$500,000; \$250,000 from fiscal year (SFY) 2016 and \$250,000 from SFY 2017. The department released a request for proposal (RFP) in April 2019 with funds distributed in SFY 2019. Another RFP will be released in spring of 2020 and funds will be distributed in SFY 2020. IDPH will select qualified 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 2019, 22 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:

Thirteen applicants were approved for funding through the competitive grants process. Three withdrew from the program before contracts were signed. Ten applicants received contracts. Nine awardees are Iowa residents and one is a non-resident. Seven awarded applicants are attending Drake University in Iowa and three awardees are attending Ball State University. The total amount of funds granted for this round of applicants was \$114,993.

In SFY 2017 and 2018, a total of 17 awardees were awarded \$95,155. Two awardees did not fulfill their service obligation and \$5,703 was successfully recovered. One contract was terminated, resulting in a reversion of \$7,300 to unobligated funds. The total amount that remains obligated from SFY 2017 and 2018 is \$82,152.

Iowa Department of Public Health, Deputy Director's Office - Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services

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To date, the total obligated funds for all three cohorts total \$197,145. Considering interest earned, unobligated and returned funds, the amount available for future RFPs is \$312,834. Staff continue to provide technical assistance to SFY 2017, 2018 and 2019 grant awardees. Technical assistance to individual contractors is provided for a maximum period of six years from individual contract award date.

Post education and certification, applicants have a two-year service obligation to work as a behavior analyst in Iowa.

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

Administrative support for this program is provided without funds allocated for administration from this appropriation. 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 SFY20.

Recommendations for any changes to the program:

One recommendation is to amend Iowa Code to change the program to a set stipend amount awarded every 6 months of service for up to 2 years post-graduation to ensure service obligation in Iowa. The program would pay \$2,500 every 6 months for two years of required service. This would add up to \$10,000, an amount in line with current student payments in the program and would assure that funds are expended only when the service is rendered. This may help avoid default and subsequent attempts to recover paid claims. Program evaluation will continue and recommended changes may include a review of the administrative rules and program procedures.