



2020 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 grant 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 grant program, or Behavior Analyst Grant 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 and SFY 2020.

Another RFP was issued September 1, 2020 with funds expected to be distributed in SFY 2021. 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:

The Department was undergoing changes in the RFP cycle in SFY 2020. Therefore, no RFP was issued in SFY 2020. As a result, no applications were submitted in the IowaGrants.gov management system. It is important to note that the Department received 12 applications in SFY 2021 and is currently in the process of making award determinations.

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

In SFY 2019, 22 applications were submitted in the IowaGrants.gov management system. Thirteen applicants were approved for funding through the competitive grants process. Three withdrew from the program before contracts were signed. Ten applicants received contracts. At contract issuance, nine awardees were Iowa residents and one a non-resident. In SFY 2020, one contractor has left the state of Iowa upon graduation with plans to return to Iowa in the next year. Seven awarded applicants are either attending or attended Drake University in Iowa. Three awardees are attending or attended 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

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reversion of \$7,300 to unobligated funds. The total amount that remains obligated from SFY 2017 and 2018 is \$82,152.

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 \$318,585.03. This does not include the award determinations the Department is currently working on. 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 if employed full-time or a four-year service obligation if employed part-time.

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.