

# Iowa Department of Public Health



## **Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts Grants Program:**

**A Report to the Iowa State Legislature – Year 2017**

**January 2017**

Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts Grants Program:  
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**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 immediately 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 and Disease Prevention, Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems.

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.

IDPH established 'Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCBA/BCaBA) Grants Program pursuant to the authority of 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.

**Report to the 2017 Legislature:**

A fund separate from the general fund was created under the control of the department and received appropriations of \$250,000 in state fiscal year 2016 and 2017. The department established a request for proposal (RFP) process and posted the RFP #58817010 September 2016 to solicit proposals/applications enabling the IDPH to 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:**

Twenty-one applications were submitted in the IowaGrants.gov grants management system.

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

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Twelve applicants were approved for funding through the competitive grants process. All approved applicants are Iowa residents and are completing their education via online programs. Funding for online programs was less than anticipated for brick and mortar programs. The total amount of funds awarded for the first round of applicants is \$51,313.

Once certified as a behavior analyst, the recipients of these grants will be obligated to remain in Iowa providing behavior analyst services to Iowans for a period of two years. IDPH plans to release a second request for proposals mid-2017 to solicit additional applicants to the program.

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

IDPH used the 5 percent administrative cost of \$12,500 to administer the program through a portion of an existing full-time equivalent position in the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems.

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

IDPH will evaluate the program further as a result of the outcome of the first request for proposal. Recommended changes may include a review the administrative rules and program procedures for the next request for proposal process. Additional information will be sought from stakeholders in addressing future recommendations.