

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

# Mass Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 25.130**

☐ Policy

☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Board Chairs  
Workforce Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
DCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
Department of Career Services

**Date:** May 13, 2016

**Subject:** **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Paraprofessionals and Professionals - Funding Opportunity**

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**Purpose:** To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of a funding opportunity through the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration announced May 9, 2016 through Grants.gov.

**Background:** This announcement solicits applications for the FY 2016 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) for Paraprofessionals and Professionals program. In support of the White House's [\*Now is the Time\*](#) initiative, the program aims to expand the mental health and substance abuse workforce serving children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth at risk for developing or who have a recognized behavioral health disorder. Grant recipients will be expected to expand the behavioral health workforce by supporting education and clinical training for behavioral health-related professionals and paraprofessionals. BHWET grant recipients will help to close the gap in access to behavioral health care services by increasing the numbers of adequately prepared behavioral health providers entering and continuing practice with at-risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth. Also, establish partnerships with a wide range of organizations and community partners to assure recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds, provide opportunities for field placements, career

development, and job placement services. All education and training by grant recipients must prepare students for work in non-profit and public health care, social service and/or behavioral health organizations focusing on at-risk children, youth and families.

<b>Funding Opportunity Number</b>	<a href="#"><u>HRSA-16-193</u></a>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	July 1, 2016
<b>Total Program Funding</b>	\$7,100,000
<b>Expected Average Award</b>	\$300,000
<b>Expected Number of Awards</b>	26
<b>Period of Performance:</b>	12 months
<b>Eligible Applicants:</b>	Behavioral paraprofessional certificate training programs; master-level schools and programs of psychology, marriage and family therapy, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, counselors, including licensed professional counselors and school counselors. Please see the announcement for additional details.

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share with your partners as appropriate.