

Bayfield County Department of Human Services

BLoCS was created to build family strength and stability, meet family needs, enhance parenting skills, and assure the well-being of children.

BLoCS will award grants to individuals and organizations for projects to help families in Bayfield County communities. By helping to initiate or maintain local resources that build family strengths, BLoCS encourages community responsibility for providing locally needed services.

Criteria

Applications will be reviewed most favorably under the following considerations:

- ◆ Identified specific benefit to local families and the community and ability to successfully complete the project with **measurable outcomes**.
- ◆ Family centered for positive youth and family development.
- ◆ Build upon family strengths like support, commitment, respect, and time together.
- ◆ Collaboration with others to meet goals (including in-kind contributions and other funding sources).
- ◆ Potential growth and development, and plans for future continuation or extension of the project.

Eligible Projects

Family Support projects include those *community-based* services that will promote the well-being of children and families. They are designed to increase the strength and stability of all kinds of families, to increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities, to afford children a stable and supportive family and community environment, and otherwise to enhance child development. The target population for family support services could include all residents of a community or any portion of them. These services cover a wide range of problem prevention and skill building or strengthening programs.

Family Preservation projects include those services designed to meet needs of families already experiencing a significant level of stress and difficulty. Such services aim to: reduce and defuse crisis situations that may lead to out-of-home placement of children, and maintain safety of children and other family members in their own homes.

Measurable Outcomes

Measurable outcomes for each project are required. That is, changes in behavior, attitude, or performance that occur as a result of the project must be documented. Projects must demonstrate some desirable effect or absence of a negative effect on the target population.

Eligible Applicants

- ◆ Any individual or organization may apply.
- ◆ Projects for which grant funds are solely or mainly devoted to capital expenditures or construction will not be considered.

At least 25% of overall BLoCS grant funds will be awarded to Family Support projects, at least 25% to Family Preservation projects, and 25% will be used for efforts to reunify families.

Grant Amounts

Up to \$3000. (An amount less than that requested may be approved). In general, larger awards go to projects that are somewhat more complicated and/or more intensive.

Technical assistance is available for questions about the application process, project design, and development/documentation of measurable outcomes, if desired.

Applications

Applications consist of a project description, budget, and outcome measurement plan submitted on a form available from:

BLoCS, P.O. Box 100, Washburn, 54891.

Applications must be postmarked no later than October 26, 2007. Applications can be completed on-line at www.bayfieldcounty.org. Final review of the applications on November 27, 2007.

SCHEDULE

2008 applications available	September 2007
<i>Applications postmark deadline</i>	October 26, 2007
Final review	November 27, 2007
Grant awards announced	By December 21, 2007
Projects may begin	January 1, 2008
<i>Final project report due and project money spent and billed</i>	<i>At the end of the project or December 15, 2008, whichever is sooner</i>

BLoCS projects will accomplish the following:

- Meet specific family and community needs consistent with the definition of eligible projects.
- Recognize and build upon existing individual and community independence, interdependence, self-reliance, and pride.
- Make new services available and accessible to families where they live.
- Eliminate some obstacles for families to access services.
- Build upon existing family and community strengths and support.
- Encourage and support existing efforts to serve families and youth that prevent out-of-home placement and lessen the impact of crises.

Application and Project Guidelines

- Any supporting documentation (other than letters of agreement by project collaborators and written measurable outcomes) **must** be limited to two pages (more than two pages will not be considered).
- **Each application must contain measurable outcomes, i.e., ways in which to show change and learning as a result of the project. If necessary, the Program Coordinator will assist in the establishment of these measurements.**
- Decisions of the grant Review Team are final. The Review Team will accept appeals only for procedural errors or a conflict of interest.
- **Four project reports will be required during the project. One-fourth of the project grant funds may be paid at the beginning of the project, one-fourth after the first and second quarterly reports are**

submitted, and the last payment after the final report.

Proof of expenditures is required.

- **Grantees must sign an agreement about the use of funds and grant requirements before any funds will be released.**
- Grantees must assume full liability and responsibility for the conduct of the project and agree not to hold BLoCS, the grant Review Team, Bayfield County Department of Human Services or Bayfield County responsible for any liability as a consequence of any funded activity.
- **BLoCS should be identified as a source of funds in printed material related to the project.**

For further questions and assistance contact:

Karla Hasart

BLoCS Program Coordinator

P.O. Box 100, Washburn, WI 54891

(715) 373-6144, ext 118

khasart@bayfieldcounty.org