

## The Upswing Fund for Adolescent Mental Health

### An Overview for Grant Applicants

**Overview** | The Upswing Fund for Adolescent Mental Health is a collaborative fund focusing on the mental health and well-being of adolescents who are of color and/or LGBTQ+. Created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a devastating impact on young people across the United States, The Upswing Fund will provide critical resources to front-line organizations that provide the services that young people rely on. In addition, the Fund supports efforts to address key systemic challenges that have resulted from COVID-19, such as policy changes that expand access to mental health services for young people.

**About The Fund** | The Upswing Fund for Adolescent Mental Health is a collaborative fund seeded by Pivotal Ventures, an investment and incubation company created by Melinda Gates to advance social progress in the United States. The Fund is powered by Panorama Global, an action tank committed to solving pressing global problems through strategic partnerships, collaborative funds, and scalable solutions.

**Eligible Organizations** | To be eligible to receive a grant from The Upswing Fund, your organization must:

- Be certified as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS and
- Serve adolescents (ages 10-18) who are of color and/or LGBTQ+.

For-profit organizations and organizations that do not serve or benefit adolescents of color and/or LGBTQ+ adolescents ages 10-18 are ineligible to be funded by The Upswing Fund.

**Funding Opportunities** | In Fall 2020, The Upswing Fund is issuing a request for proposal for one-year, non-renewable grants. The Fund is currently accepting applications for two types of grants. Applicants may apply to one type of grant only.

**Surge Capacity** grants aim to immediately increase capacity for mental health providers serving adolescents of who are of color and/or LGBTQ+ to ensure that more adolescents have access to quality mental healthcare. Eligible organizations are:

- Non-profit, outpatient clinics which offer in-person or virtual mental health,
- Community-based organizations or community centers providing mental and emotional support,
- Digital health services,
- After school programs and school-based mental health services, and
- Mobile crisis programs.

16% of adolescents in America experience a mental health disorder each year.  
- [JAMA Pediatrics](#)

Black and Hispanic adolescents make 47-48% fewer visits to mental health providers compared to their white counterparts.  
- [International Journal of Health Services](#)

LGBTQ+ teens are six times more likely to experience depression than non-LGBTQ+ identifying teens.  
- [Anxiety & Depression Association of America](#)

The Fund will enable Surge Capacity grantees to provide care by:

- Achieving short-term programmatic and organizational goals
- Increasing capacity to treat more adolescents
- Enabling the procurement of technology and telehealth resources
- Facilitating a marked impact on the youth they serve, determined by an increase in the amount of therapy sessions as well as improvement in adolescent patients' mental health as measured by evidence-based surveys

The Fund will make approximately fifty Surge Capacity grants (ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000). Surge Capacity grant applications must be submitted by December 4, 2020. Please note: Applications will be reviewed and funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis until all funds are disbursed.

**Systems Enabler** grants provide resources to organizations to support innovative approaches in adolescent mental health services that make more resilient systems to enable access to care. A systems enabler is an inclusive, forward-thinking organization with a game-changing program focused on transforming mental health for adolescents. Eligible programs will:

- Have an innovative solution which can make a scalable impact within the next 12 months,
- Have been in existence with demonstratable metrics and outcomes for at least 6 months, and
- Advance achievement in one of our key focus areas with a tactic that may include, but is not limited to, software-based, specific policy change, a communications campaign or other novel, scalable solution.

Systems Enabler Grants will be awarded to address these key focus areas:

- Efforts to expand the formal mental health workforce
- Mental health service integration in schools and other community-based organizations
- Efforts to expand the use of digital tools or telehealth services
- Public financing of mental health services
- Stigma reduction and mental health awareness

The Fund will make approximately ten Systems Enabler grants (up to \$500,000 each). Systems Enabler grant applications must be submitted by November 16, 2020.



To apply for a grant or learn more about The Upswing Fund, please visit our website at [www.theupswingfund.org](http://www.theupswingfund.org). You can also contact us at [upswing@panoramaglobal.org](mailto:upswing@panoramaglobal.org).