

EMSWCD Grants Program Support and Assistance Opportunity

Do you need help writing a grant application or pulling information together for a report? Are you having trouble with the reimbursement process?

EMSWCD is aware of the challenges faced by many BIPOC community organizations and other marginalized groups in accessing our grant opportunities. Some issues we are aware of include: difficulty with online applications, cultural/language barriers, power dynamics preventing people from asking for help, and limited resources for insurance and organizational development training programs. Even when a group receives a grant, carrying out the administrative requirements of the grant can create an added burden. Sometimes grant recipients have had minimal experience with tasks such as budget tracking and match funding, requesting reimbursement of funds, and reporting on project outcomes. We are looking for ways to address these barriers and make our grant programs more accessible.

As a step in this direction, EMSWCD has hired Jamie Stamberger, an outside consultant, to help support organizations as they apply for EMSWCD grants and manage grants they receive. Assistance is available for new and small non-profit organizations and other groups that meet the criteria. We will be prioritizing requests from those representing and/or serving primarily BIPOC communities. The service is free and is offered on a first come, first served basis.

To qualify, the following criteria apply:

1. Your organization has received no more than two EMSWCD grants.
2. Your organization has an annual operating budget of less than \$250,000.
3. Your organization does not have current funding for the specialized type of assistance you are requesting (such as for grant-writing, report writing, and fiscal management).

The consultant will be available to help with the following:

- Organizing and planning for an application (what is needed, are you ready?)
- Getting great ideas in writing (how to describe a project and what you plan to accomplish)
- Developing a work plan, budget, and needed documentation (all the extra pieces of an application).
- Submitting applications through the on-line ZoomGrants grant managements system.
- Managing the on-line reimbursement in ZoomGrants – guidance on the reimbursement process, expense documentation, match documentation, volunteer tracking, and submitting a request.
- Preparing for, writing, and submitting mid-year and final reporting – tracking progress on projects.

We also intend this as a training and capacity building opportunity. The goal is to assist and train organization staff so they will have the skills to apply for and manage grants moving forward.

Your participation in this program will have no effect on EMSWCD's decision-making process for awarding grants to your organization.

If you are interested, you may contact our consultant directly by email explaining your interest in getting assistance. Ella habla español:

Jamie Stamberger, jamie@stambergeroutreach.com

Or call at (503) 489-8566.

You may also email or call EMSWCD's Grants Program Manager:

Suzanne Easton, suzanne@emswcd.org, (503)-935-5370, cell: (971) 227-1682