

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New funding for mental and behavioral health services

Three local programs receive grants totaling more than \$40,000

KENNEWICK, Wash. – New funding for local programs that provide mental and behavioral health services to parents and children begins this week. United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties awarded grants totaling \$42,448 to three agencies focused on services to improve parenting skills, provide support therapy for autistic children, and prevent youth violence.

Previously, the funding was awarded to programs administered by Lourdes Counseling Services. The original grant was for two years, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. When Lourdes was purchased last year by a for-profit corporation, the program became ineligible to receive the rest of grant.

United Way and its board of directors requested proposals from local nonprofit agencies that offer mental and behavioral health services. Following a robust review process and site visits, grants were awarded to support the following programs:

- **Parent Child Interaction Therapy:** \$16,448. This funding will be used by [Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington](#) to purchase audio equipment and supplies for use in real-time coaching of parents of young children with behavioral problems. A therapist observes parent and child interactions through a one-way mirror and provides recommendations and strategies to the parent through a connected earpiece.
- **Child Developmental Training for Parents of Autistic Children:** \$15,000. The [Children's Developmental Center](#) will use this funding to provide individualized treatment plans and therapies to address the needs of autistic children, and provide training for parents to work with their child at home.
- **Youth Violence Prevention Project:** \$11,000. [Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties](#) will provide weekly interactive, education groups for at-risk youth, ages 10-18. The groups focus on helping participants make thoughtful decisions, improve self-confidence, and navigate peer pressure and conflict to prevent violence, victimization, depression, and anxiety.

“We’re excited to support the work being done in these programs,” said United Way president LoAnn Ayers. “Mental and behavioral health challenges are not restricted to any age group, and many families in our area do not have access to treatment. These programs provide options for developing skills and creating healthier environments.”

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The grants run from August 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Each program tracks results and reports progress to United Way.

United Way's next funding cycle will open in early 2020 for two-year grants that will be awarded beginning July 1, 2020.

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About United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties

[United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties](#) strives for a community where all individuals and families achieve their potential through education, financial stability and healthy lives. We partner with local nonprofits, businesses, and government and social service agencies to address our community's greatest needs and build pathways for individuals and families to independence and happiness.