



*Baton Rouge  
Area Foundation*

## **AMERICARES/BATON ROUGE AREA FOUNDATION MENTAL HEALTH GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **What is AmeriCares?**

AmeriCares is a non-profit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization that provides immediate response to emergency medical needs and supports long-term humanitarian assistance programs—for all people around the world, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion. Since its founding, AmeriCares has provided more than \$5.0 billion of aid to projects in more than 137 countries.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, AmeriCares deployed a response team to the affected areas to determine the need in impacted communities, and has shipped over eight million dollars worth of medicines and supplies to shelters and clinics. As part of our longer-term recovery effort, we have partnered with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to develop a funding mechanism to support local mental health providers in recovery efforts in their own communities. To that end, this grant announcement provides information related to available resources and application instructions.

Further information about AmeriCares can be found at: [www.AmeriCares.org](http://www.AmeriCares.org)

### **What is the Baton Rouge Area Foundation?**

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is a community foundation, a nonprofit organization, composed of over 300 charitable funds with over \$400 million in assets established by individuals, families, corporations and organizations. Since 1964, the Foundation has made grants in the areas of Arts& Humanities, Community Development, Education, Environment, Human Services, Medical/Health, Religion and Scholarships. In 2005, the Foundation through its Foundations for Recovery initiative raised over 30.7 million for hurricane relief efforts and made over 1,534 grants. For more information about the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, visit [www.braf.org](http://www.braf.org) and for more information about Foundations for Recovery visit [www.foundationsforrecovery.org](http://www.foundationsforrecovery.org).

### **Who May Apply?**

This grant program seeks to fund projects that will restore and strengthen the capacity of mental health providers to better serve the population of the Gulf region. Local, state-

wide, or regional not-for-profit mental health organizations in Louisiana whose programs directly benefit impacted individuals and communities. The work of the applicant must focus on mental health direct services. Organizations must be established as a 501(c)(3). The Foundation will not consider grants for individuals, research, or policy related projects.

The Foundation will give preference to projects by organizations responding to unmet needs in local communities. A strong emphasis will be placed on organizations demonstrating collaborative efforts with other providers. Applicants may request support for project staff salaries and benefits, office operations, equipment, and other direct expenses essential to the implementation of the program. Indirect costs, not to exceed 10% of direct expenses, may be requested.

### **Awards**

The Foundation expects to award 15-25 one-year grants valued up to \$100,000. AmeriCares will disburse Funds in three equal payments.

### **How to Apply:**

The application process will include a Letter of Intent (LOI), which will be peer reviewed; full proposals will be invited from those applicants meeting the established criteria. All applications must be submitted using the forms provided via email in Word or PDF through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Incomplete documents cannot be considered.

Application materials will be available online after March 7, 2006 at [www.foundationsforrecovery.org](http://www.foundationsforrecovery.org).

### **Applicant Conference**

The Foundations have scheduled an informational conference for interested applicants. The purpose of the conference is to:

- Present an overview of the Foundations and the Grant Program;
- Describe funding priorities;
- Describe the Request for Proposals process;
- Review reporting requirements; and
- Answer applicants' questions.

Attendance at the Applicant's Conference is *optional* but recommended for all applicants.

**CONFERENCE DATE: March 7, 2006**

**LOCATION: Baton Rouge Area Foundation  
402 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809**

**TIME: 10:00 am.**

**REGISTRATION: RSVP via email to the BRAF at: [gchapman@braf.org](mailto:gchapman@braf.org).**