



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Suicide Prevention Grant to Serve Communities during COVID-19 Pandemic

Spencer, IA – Seasons Center for Behavioral Health was granted the Suicide Prevention Grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), beginning July 31, 2020. This grant allows Seasons to increase access to behavioral health services for individuals, families, and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance efforts to prevent suicide and suicide attempts within nine counties in rural northwest Iowa.

"We are seeing an increased need for mental health services due to the COVID-19 crisis across our service area," said Kim Scorza, CEO/President of Seasons Center. "Seasons is grateful to have received the Suicide Prevention Grant through SAMHSA in order to provide specific services and resources for our community as we continue to support northwest Iowa individuals and families."

Seasons will be offering specialized services for individuals struggling with behavioral health challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and other stressors through care coordination. Additional resources provided through the Suicide Prevention Grant will include increased opportunities for suicide prevention trainings like Mental Health First Aid, regional summits, public awareness campaigns, staff training, and outreach materials.

The nine-county area served under this grant includes: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, and Sioux counties. Though this grant serves all individuals of the nine-county area, Seasons will implement specific plans to serve victims of domestic violence, farmers and ag-related workers, and immigrants and refugees.

"With this new project, we will be hiring new positions to provide services and support to those who may be struggling," said Christina Eggink-Postma, VP of Program Coordination and Compliance. "Professionals and college graduates in social work or related fields can visit our website to learn more about the positions available, which includes a Project Director and Care Coordinator positions."

For more information on this grant or services provided by Seasons, Autumn's Center, and Camp Autumn, please visit our website at: www.seasonscenter.org or call 1.800.242.5101.

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Founded in 1959, Seasons Center for Behavioral Health continues to be a leading, comprehensive behavioral health center in the northwest region of Iowa. Offering a broad range of behavioral health Services, Seasons recognizes that investing in behavioral health is investing in a community's economic, education, health and human services systems. Seasons strives to empower individuals so they might become active, contributing members of their communities. For more information on Seasons' services, please visit www.seasonscenter.org or call 1-800-242-5101.

Avera is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to provide excellent care at 300 locations in 100 communities in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states. Our ministry, our people and our superior values distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion hospitality and stewardship. Avera employs more than 13,500. Inpatient, outpatient and clinic visits totaled nearly 2.5 million in the last year, a number equal to more than twice the population of the Avera service area. For more information please visit www.avera.org.