



Sandy Hook School Support Fund Review Process

Background

The Sandy Hook School Support Fund (SHSSF) provides assistance with out of pocket costs for mental health and wellness care directly related to the tragedy at Sandy Hook School on 12/14/12. The Distribution Committee (DC) of the SHSSF has had to face the difficult task of trying to meet consistent demand with decreasing resources. After researching countless options the DC made changes that went into effect on 1/1/2016 that put caps on what the fund could reasonably reimburse for individual treatment for those at the epicenter of the tragedy (victims, survivors - including students and staff enrolled or working at SHS on 12/14, and emergency responders to the two crime scenes). The caps that were put in place were an effort to be as equitable as possible and were based on average utilization. Care navigators are available to assist individuals with maximizing their insurance benefits with quality mental health care. As a safety net, the DC put in place a review process to individually assess cases where treatment costs are prohibitive.

Review Process

Individuals who are not eligible for reimbursement at all or individuals who are eligible but have exceeded their caps for the year may apply to have their case reviewed by a 3 member review team of the Distribution Committee. At this time this committee is comprised of Dr. Robert Bazuro, Rev. Robert Morris, and Bob Schmidt, LPC. All information that comes to the committee is strictly confidential and you may choose to have your name redacted so that only the Executive Director sees the name. Each situation is unique and we ask that individuals requesting support keep all funding decisions private. Per our mission and donor intention, the request must be directly related to the 12/14 tragedy. The review committee reserves the right to request additional information. Requests should be for future or current needs. Requests for reimbursement for services up to three months back may be considered in extenuating circumstances. The most that the review committee is authorize to approve is up to \$5,000 for out-patient and \$10,000 for in-patient mental health care.

- Please submit the attached application and supporting documentation to jbarahona@nshcf.org or NSHCF~ 2 Washington Square, Newtown, CT 06470. Email is preferred.
- Every effort will be made to reach a decision within 5 business days after receiving all requested information (including follow up information if requested). This may not be possible if decisions must go before the full Distribution Committee for any reason.

As a reminder, students enrolled at SHS on 12/14 also have victim compensation benefits through the Office of Victim Services (OVS) that can be accessed if limits are reached. OVS can be reached at 888-286-7347.

For further information about the Foundation or the Sandy Hook School Support Fund please visit www.nshcf.org.