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Title	<b>Navigator Network — strategically trained volunteers who show up for friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers to listen with care, offer calm support in tough moments, and connect people to local resources, making it easier to talk about struggles, ask for help, and get the support they need.</b>	10/28/2025 id. 52115018
	by <b>Shannon Steele</b> in <b>FY26 Microgrant Fund</b> hello@bewellbigsky.org	

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<b>Original Submission</b>	10/28/2025
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Score	n/a
Request Name	Navigator Network — strategically trained volunteers who show up for friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers to listen with care, offer calm support in tough moments, and connect people to local resources, making it easier to talk about struggles, ask for help, and get the support they need.
Who will be the fiscal sponsor of this request?	One Valley Community Foundation

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Description	<p>The Navigator Network includes 25+ trained volunteers including ski patrollers, teachers, HR managers, and chefs who serve as trusted peer supports in workplaces, schools, and community spaces. Navigators provide real-time emotional and practical support to individuals facing mental health and substance use challenges while serving as a bridge to professional resources. They help reduce stigma by normalizing help-seeking, sharing their own experiences, and integrating care into daily life.</p> <p>Each Navigator completes foundational trainings in Emotional First Aid and Suicide Prevention (QPR), equipping them with trauma-informed tools for recognizing distress, listening with empathy, and connecting people to resources safely and effectively. Navigator training must be strategic, relevant, practical, and responsive to community needs.</p> <p>In 2026, we plan to expand the program’s annual training and integration efforts to include quarterly Referral Pathway Gatherings, where key service providers such as Wellness in Action, Bozeman Health, law enforcement, and Help Center meet with Navigators to build trust, share updates, and strengthen referral relationships. Additional annual trainings will include topics such as substance use and harm reduction, domestic violence and assault response, trafficking awareness, and scope-of-practice sessions covering active listening, boundaries, and referral tracking.</p>
Select the projects Investment Type	Programming
Select the projects Impact Area	Health & Safety
Where will this project be taking place?	Within the Big Sky community / resort area district
Please explain the community benefit of the project	<p>This project strengthens Big Sky’s community-based support system by increasing access to mental and behavioral health resources, reducing stigma, and improving coordination between residents and providers. The 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment found 26% of residents report high stress, and 71% with mental health concerns did not seek care due to stigma, cost, or lack of awareness. Navigators fill this gap by listening without judgment, offering calm support, and connecting people to local resources, ensuring help is never more than one conversation away. The program reaches year-round, seasonal, and international workers, youth, and residents across all sectors. Twenty-five trained Navigators currently connect with at least one person weekly, impacting roughly 1,300 people annually. Success is tracked through navigator feedback, referral data, training completion, and strengthened collaboration and awareness across the community.</p>
What is the Resort Tax request for this project?	25000

What is the total cost of this project? 92350

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Provide a list of the expenses this should this project be awarded funding

- Network convening and facilitation
  - Community outreach and engagement
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When do you plan to have incurred the costs being requested? 1/1/2026

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Please provide any additional information on this request if needed

Be Well Big Sky is a volunteer-driven network supported by contracted experts under fiscal sponsorship with One Valley Community Foundation, allowing us to remain community-led, flexible, and rooted in lived experience. As we thoughtfully navigate our long-term formation, we recognize the vital role a Wellness District will play in sustaining both our work and essential health and wellness resources in Big Sky. Navigators play an important role: listening, educating, and facilitating dialogue about real community needs, and strengthening our collective capacity for care and ensuring wellness remains a shared responsibility.

This micro grant will sustain and enhance the Navigator Network's ability to respond to emerging community needs during a critical period of transition, bridging the gap as long-term funding structures and organizational frameworks take shape.

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Please provide the name(s) and email addresses of who will be representing this request at the next BSRAD board meeting

Shannon Steele - [ssteele@bewellbigsky.org](mailto:ssteele@bewellbigsky.org)

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Application Review & Final Submission

If your application is still in progress you may save your work using the "Save Draft" button. If your application is complete and ready for District review submit using the "Submit Form" button. Once submitted you may not make changes or edits to your application. Application Review: Applications generally will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. The board meeting schedule can be found on the District website. If received less than 10 days before the next regularly scheduled meeting it will not be reviewed until the following month/meeting. The applicant must be present at the review meeting to answer questions or provide more information requested by the Board. Application review will not occur during the regular Annual Allocation Meetings.

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