

FY 2020
School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program Abstracts

VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Education (VA) proposes to establish the Virginia School Mental Health Program (SMHP) Recruitment and Retention Hub (the Hub) that will provide a single point of access to support the recruitment and retention of over 6,800 SMHPs in Virginia school divisions. The seven participating LEAs were strategically selected because they have high student to SMHP ratios as compared to other LEAs in Virginia; demonstrated need in regard to mental health services in which the school climate is negatively impacted by poverty, violence, substance abuse, and suicide; a significant number of families deployed in the military; and are Spurring Investment in Qualified Opportunity Zones. The sites are located in four geographic regions in Virginia that are representative of the high-need LEAs in small cities and rural areas throughout the state where most children living in poverty attend school. The proposed project outcomes will result in an increase in the quality and quantity of professional development the current SMHPs in participating LEAs receive; a reduction in the annual attrition rate of those SMHPs, an increase in the number of school-based mental health service providers recruited and hired annually for participating LEAs, and a reduction in the ratio of students to SMHPs for each LEA with demonstrated need served by the grant.

NEVADA

State of Nevada Department of Education (NV) seeks to build on recent improvements in the numbers of school-based mental health service providers statewide by addressing the challenge of an adequate and qualified workforce that is willing and able to serve the needs of students and families in schools across the state. The proposed activities are the result of both ongoing strategic planning as well as intensive collaboration with institutions of higher education, which stand committed with NDE to respond to this call to action. The focus of the proposed project activities will be centered on the state's communities that have the highest needs and include existing shortages in school-based mental health providers, other indicators of economic need, diversity of the student population, and indicators of school climate and school safety. NDE anticipates being able to provide these opportunities to high school, post-secondary, and existing licensed providers across the state over the five-year term of the grant, as the population of the state is comparatively small despite being the 9th largest state geographically.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Public Education Department (NM) proposes an innovative and achievable program that will significantly increase the number and quality of mental health service providers in its schools through a five-program activity component (Loan Repayment for School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Providers in Selected Local Educational Agencies (LEAs); Increased Pay for SBMH Providers in Selected LEAs; Stipends for Trainee SBMH Providers in Selected LEAs; Advanced Licensure Assistance for SBMH Providers and Professional Community Facilitation). The program will operate all over the state, with the precise

number of service locations not explicitly determined by program policies. The selection of participating LEAs will be driven primarily by risk factors in the student population and secondarily by geographic location. The financial incentives, licensure obtainment assistance, and community facilitation offered by this program will encourage recruitment and retainment of SBMH providers in selected LEAs, ultimately increasing the number of qualified SBMH service providers in LEAs with demonstrated need.

OHIO

Ohio Department of Education (OH) proposes a high-quality project designed to increase the number of qualified school-based mental health service providers in LEAs with demonstrated need. The aim is to recruit 110 service providers and hire 14 service providers the first year, and 24 providers years 2-5, for a total of 110 providers over the grant period. Through partnerships at the regional and county level, pathways will be created that lead from internship, to employment, to job retention. Ohio's retainment strategies include annual retention bonus for new staff; annual retention bonus for existing staff; and Internship to employment commitment stipend. Ohio will work with three Educational Service Centers that serve the seven counties and offer project services to up to twenty-seven LEAs, of which twenty-three are designated as rural.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WI) seeks to address the recruitment of potential providers by first reducing barriers to preparation and respecialization through contractual partnerships with in-state school counseling, psychology, and social work preparation programs. This will be accomplished through the creation or expansion of online preparation options and the respecialization process for individuals who possess community-based mental health licensure or have an advanced degree that requires additional coursework to become licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI). The overall goal of program is to increase the number of school-based mental health providers, lower the provider-to-student ratios and increase the number of providers persisting in areas of high need.

RHODE ISLAND

RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RI) proposes to increase the number of qualified mental health service providers providing school based mental health services to students in local educational agencies (LEAs) with demonstrated need through the development, implementation and evaluation of recruitment and retention strategies of a variety of service providers including those who provide telehealth services. the identification of similarities and differences in recruitment, retention and respecialization, in urban and rural setting, to inform strategies to increase the number of school-based mental health service providers statewide. Another goal is the identification of similarities and differences in recruitment, retention and respecialization, in urban and rural setting, to inform strategies to increase the number of school-based mental health service providers statewide.