



## **School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can private and/or choice schools apply?**

No. The statute authorizing the grant program identifies eligible applicants as school boards (districts), charter schools, and consortia.

### **Is collaboration with community mental health providers required?**

Yes. Your plan must include collaborating with community mental health providers to improve access to mental health treatment for your students.

### **Can we apply for more than one year?**

Funding for this grant came from the last biennial budget passed in the fall. It authorized funding for the 2018-2019 school year only. While we hope that it will remain in future budgets, we cannot guarantee that it will.

### **If funding is included in future budgets can we re-apply?**

We don't know. Currently, the legislation does not account for continuation grants.

### **How is "charter school" being defined for this grant?**

Charter schools not authorized by public school boards are eligible to apply. This would include charter schools authorized by the City of Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, or the UW System. For those charters authorized by school boards, the school board (district) would have to apply for the grant.

### **How is a consortia defined for this grant?**

Eligible applicants, as indicated above, can apply individually or as a group, or consortium. The statute allows CESAs to be a consortium but only if it is a group of school boards. Applicants cannot apply under both, meaning if they apply under a consortium they cannot also apply individually.

### **Why can't we use grant funds to pay for treatment services?**

There are a number of reasons for this. First and foremost, using grant funds for treatment service is not sustainable. Secondly, when grant funds are not available, presumably the child or youth will be cut off from services. This raises an ethical

issue. Thirdly, using grant funding for services that have a funding source (third party insurers) is not a good use of funds.

**If we can't use grant funds to pay for treatment, what can we use if for?**

Funds can be used to:

- pay for community provider delivery of an indirect service such as staff or parent training or co-facilitation of group activities.
- fund student or staff training in mental health and wellness activities.
- support staff coaching of evidence-based practice.
- support evidence-based programming around suicide prevention, mental health literacy, bullying prevention, and social and emotional development, stigma reduction, and substance abuse.
- support youth-generated mental health and wellness activities.
- provide resources that may be necessary to team across agencies to support families and to support personnel to assist parents and guardians to access treatment services and assist them through the challenges of doing so.
- work with multiple agencies to create a seamless referral system and cover costs of technology to do so.
- support updating or creating treatment spaces in schools that are comfortable and confidential (only 10 percent of funds can be used for this purpose).

**Explain the supplement not supplant requirement.**

To supplement not supplant means that, in general, districts may not use School-Based Mental Health Services Grant program funds for the cost of activities if the cost of those activities would have otherwise been paid with state or local funds in the absence of the grant program funds.

**Can we hire a state licensed therapist to provide mental health treatment to children, youth, and families?**

The school cannot employ a therapist directly unless licensed by the DPI as a counselor, social worker, or psychologist.

**What if we have multiple projects or sites we want to fund? Do we submit multiple applications?**

Eligible applicants can only submit one application. (One per school district, charter, or consortium). If you have multiple projects you want to fund, you need to include them in your one plan.

**What if there are duplicate applications; one from a district and another where a district is included in a CESA consortium application?**

Make sure that this doesn't happen before sending the applications. Consortium applicants must ensure that the school board (district) supports the project.

**Can individual schools within districts apply?**

No. Eligible applicants are school boards (districts).

**Can the School Mental Health Coordinator be an existing pupil services person?**

Yes. Funding can be used to pay for this additional time.

**Can you clarify what the required data to be collected is?**

You will be collecting **two** numbers. The number of students who receive a mental health contact by school mental health providers (school social worker, school psychologist, school counselor, and school nurse when the nurse sees a student for a mental health related issue) **and** the number of students who receive a mental health contact by a community mental health provider, even if the community provider is located in the school. Students served in both entities can be counted in both.

**Can funding be used for off-site training for staff related to mental health?**

Yes, if that activity is in your plan and connected to your identified needs. Use sound judgement regarding travel expenses such as limiting out-of-state travel.

**Can you pay staff stipends or salary for training?**

Yes, if the training occurs outside of their normally paid time. Grant money cannot pay salary or stipend for time also being paid by the district or school.

**If we agree to less, can we amend our plan?**

Yes.

**Can non-violent crisis intervention be included?**

NVCI is a violence prevention/safety approach which may be fundable if you are able to show how it will improve the mental health of your students. All activities have to be connected to improving student mental health supports and connected to your identified needs.

**Can we use funds to pay community members such as therapists, to attend district leadership team meetings?**

Yes.

**Can mindfulness activities be funded through this grant?**

Yes, if it connects to your needs and plan and is evidence-based.

**Can funding be used for Trauma Sensitive Schools training?**

Yes, if it connects to your needs and plan.