

School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program Summary

Grant Overview: The purpose of the School Based Mental Health Services grant program is to increase the number of credentialed mental health services providers providing school-based mental health services to students in LEAs with demonstrated need. The US Department of Education aims to help address these mental health needs and provide support to students, families, and schools by using the increased funds available from the FY 2022 Appropriations Act and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to dramatically increase the number of credentialed school-based mental health services providers in LEAs with demonstrated need through awards in FYs 2022-2026 under the SBMH grant program.

The priorities for the FY 2022 competition are increasing recruitment and retention-related incentives for school-based mental health services providers; promoting the re-specialization and professional retraining of existing mental health services providers to qualify them for work in LEAs with demonstrated need; and increasing the diversity, and cultural and linguistic competency, of school-based mental health services providers, including competency in providing identity-safe services.

The administration proposes using grant funds to increase the number of credentialed school-based mental health service providers by implementing plans to recruit, hire, and retain the following credentialed providers:

- School Psychologist - Psychological Counseling
- School Psychologist - Trauma Informed Care Coordinator
- School Social Worker
- Director of School Mental Health

Grant funds will also be used to collaborate with community partners to offer Art Therapy and elementary Student Assistance Program services.

Amount of Award: \$2,462,209.00

Due Date/Notification of Award: November 3, 2022. Notification in 2023.

Alternatives if not Awarded: The district will explore other funding opportunities.

WCSD Resources Required: The district budget will have to assume administrative costs not covered by the grant award.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply to the US Department of Education School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program in the amount of \$2,462,209.00 to support mental health support personnel, as well as Art Therapy programming and Student Assistance Program services.