



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 21, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to create the Mental Health Support Grant to address mental health needs of students and staff across Nebraska.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Office of Coordinated Student Support Services School Mental Health Team has drafted a proposal to offer support to all 244 Schools Districts across Nebraska in their efforts to better support the mental health needs of students and school staff. Projected outcomes from this project would be that students and school staff will have their mental health supported and offered resources if needed, and that students will receive education around mental health and ways to support their own, and others', mental health.

The proposed project aligns with the first priority area of ESSER focus – Mental Health Supports: Interventions to support student and staff social emotional wellbeing and mental health.

This project will address school mental health through the following activities:

Partner with the Mid-America Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) to host a School Mental Health Institute and provide a series of modules on how to develop a Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program.

Educational Service Units (ESUs) that will be named through a competitive grant process (\$5,700,000) – Partnerships with ESUs across the state will assist in recruiting for the School Mental Health Institute to be held in the Fall of 2021. If they choose, staff from each ESU can attend the Institute to become a trainer of the Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program (CSBMH) modules, allowing them to host their own Institute with schools within their service area who wish to develop a CSBMH Program. ESUs will also provide ongoing Technical Assistance to LEAs as they engage in work to develop their CSBMH Program. In addition, ESUs will collect and report data required for this project.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that will be named through a competitive grant process (\$8,275,140) - LEAs that are interested in developing a CSBMH Program will complete the Institute application and develop a School Mental Health team of 3-7 members that would attend a School Mental Health Institute held either by the NDE or an ESU. While attending an Institute, the team will conduct a Needs Assessment and create an Action Plan for developing their CSBMH Program. This team will also engage in regular Technical Assistance calls with either the NDE or and ESU. This project will provide financial support for the LEAs as they work to develop their CSBMH Program. The LEA will be provided a list of options for the financial support and will complete a budget with their plans on how they would utilize the funding. LEAs will also be responsible for collecting and reporting data required for this project.

University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) (\$432,000) – This partnership will allow for evaluation of the School Mental Health Institutes and the development of Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Programs at LEAs across the state. NUPPC will collect and analyze data from ESUs and LEAs and create yearly reports.

Contractors to be Named (\$170,000) – Additional partnerships will be established to develop and deliver training around various topics related to mental health and to develop resources that can be utilized by all LEAs and ESUs.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to exceed \$14,577,140

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER II and ESSER III
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: