**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

***on behalf of the***

**Central Regional Education Association in partnership with**

**ND Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group**

**O-OJJDP-2021-47011**

**NDHELP – Helping Educators Lead with Positivity**

**Purpose**

The North Dakota Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (SAG) is allocating federal grant funding to implement positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) in 5-8 schools with the goal of keeping kids in school. Schools selected will be awarded technical assistance support from the Central Regional Education Association (CREA) to improve their Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) system with an emphasis on PBIS, Restorative Practices, Check and Connect, Collaborative Problem-Solving, Prevent-Teach-Reinforce, and an Integrated Systems Framework. An emphasis is being placed on schools with a higher enrollment of minority youth, in an attempt to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

In addition to the technical assistance support through CREA, schools will receive funds for to purchase direct supports and supplies for interventions within the PBIS model and stipends for training opportunities, before and after school meetings, and summer work days.

**Background**

Statewide, North Dakota’s schools are struggling with student mental health challenges and intentional strategies to mitigate students at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system, yet do ***not*** have the necessary resources to address these challenges without federal funds. The ND **Helping Educators Lead with Positivity (NDHELP)** program will embed schoolwide positive behavior intervention and supports in schools to increase positive behavior, decrease punitive consequences, and implement prevention-focused interventions earlier, which will result in sustainability.

**Application Requirements**

Applications need to be submitted using the forms found at: www.creand.org. Applications should be as thorough and detailed as possible so that the SAG is able to properly evaluate the capacity and ability to provide the proposed services.

The applicant agency must be a public school district with a demonstrated experience providing services to youth, particularly minority youth, in North Dakota. Each district must have multiple secondary schools (e.g. junior high, senior high), with different leadership teams, principal, etc. Additionally, each school has to have created a MTSS system, which allows for increased levels of positive behavior intervention and supports. It is highly encouraged that applicants work collaboratively with other local stakeholders to the extent practicable to address possible contributing factors of the disproportionality, including but not limited to the Human Service Zones, Human Service Centers, and local law enforcement.

Priority will be given to those applications implementing evidenced-based programs and practices. Priority will also be given to those applicants who have an established relationship with local law enforcement.

Funds received are minimal, falling under the micro-purchase threshold each year. However, schools will receive support from REA staff, consultants, and contractors to increase their MTSS system to be more preventative.

Applications should be submitted no later than **October 7, 2022** through email or online submission.

**Proposal Evaluation**

Applications will be evaluated by the SAG using the following weighted criteria:

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| Current implementation of an evidenced-based program or practice | 25% |
| Demonstrated experience providing services to youth and collaborating with other local stakeholders | 15% |
| Demonstrated team composition and experience with PBIS | 10% |
| Demonstrated capacity to collect, analyze, and utilize data to make decisions related to reducing recidivism, especially within diverse populations | 20% |
| School programs or services appear to be implemented and are ready for improvement | 25% |
| Existing funds are allocated for school programs aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities | 5% |

**Award Information**

**Award notifications and expectations**

All applicants will be notified of the funding decision via email the week of October 17, 2022. Selected applicants will be required to complete and return all required forms before an award is finalized.

**Start Date and Project Period**

Awards will have a tentative start date of 11/1/22 and an end date no later than 9/30/26.

**Reporting**

Applicants that are awarded support will be required to submit progress reports within fifteen days following the end of each quarterly period. In addition, reporting is required on established performance measures established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and delinquency Prevention.

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| **Goal 1: NDHELP will reduce the number of students involved in the JJ system through proactive approaches and strategies for mitigating recidivism.** |
| **Objective 1: Improve the skills of school personnel to organize the components of a multi-tiered behavioral framework, such as discipline policies, funding, professional development, coaching, and interagency coordination for providing service.** |
| **Objective 3: Improve the quality, accessibility, and usefulness of individual school and Local Education Agency (LEA) data collection and analysis.** |
| **Objective 4: Enhance the implementation of SWPBIS through a multi-year approach of adding tiered intervention and instruction support to the selected schools that continually narrows support to those at-risk of entering the JJ system.** |
| **Objective 5: Create an integrated systems framework in each school which engages strategic partners who support students touched by the JJ system and their families.** |
| **Reporting Details: # of individuals served; % of individuals served; % of individuals served by promising practice, cultural service, trauma-informed service; % of individuals detained, adjudicated, violated court order, completed service; conduct survey once/year.** |

Accepted schools will be asked to share impact data addressing the federal program area listed and four objectives listed.

Any questions regarding this request should be directed to Luke Schaefer at (701) 340-3533 or via email at luke.schaefer@k12.nd.us