



School-linked Mental Health Grants

HF 960 (Backer) / SF 1369 (Klein)

HF 3378 (Davnier) / SF 2815 (Clausen)

School-linked mental health services have proven to be one of the most effective programs at reducing barriers to children and youth accessing mental health treatment. In order to be eligible to deliver these services, the provider must be licensed in Children's Therapeutic Supports and Services (CTSS) and have a letter of approval from the school district(s) they will serve. While schools are able to offer a number of supports including PBIS and student support personnel, such as a school social worker or school counselor, there are some students who will require a clinical level of care delivered by a mental health professional. School-linked mental health services meet this need by locating mental health professionals in the schools where the students already are, greatly increasing the access to mental health services by eliminating barriers such as transportation, difficulty navigating the system, taking off of work and lost time being out of school.

Where School-Linked Grant Dollars Go

- Direct Clinical Services: When the student is uninsured or underinsured, school-linked dollars cover the mental health treatment. This includes covering co-pays and deductibles that are cost-prohibitive for the student and their family.
- Other Supports: Funding for additional services the student requires including consultation between mental health provider and primary care providers, educators, and others.
- Capacity Enhancement: Supports expanding clinical capacity of the mental health providers who provide direct treatment.

Benefits of School-Linked Mental Health Programs

- School-linked providers co-locate at a school, providing clinical level mental health treatment within the school walls.
- Nearly half of the students served by school-linked mental health received mental health care for the first time. Half of these students were diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- School-linked mental health providers can bill MA and private insurance when available, but will also provide treatment to uninsured or underinsured students.
- School-linked providers have the expertise to follow HIPAA regulations.
- Eliminates need for student to miss school and parents to miss work in order to receive mental health care. This burden is especially significant for families in Greater Minnesota.
- Can provide services when school is out and continue treating the child if he/she changes schools.

Schools currently accessing school-linked mental health.

- School-linked mental health services are currently available in 78/87 of MN Counties, 83% of school districts, and 43% of school buildings.
- There are no sites in Douglas, Goodhue, Lake of the Woods, Pennington, Traverse, Stevens, Faribault, Freeborn, or Mower counties.
- 2017 Legislation allows for school-linked funds to provide transportation during summer months.

NAMI Minnesota
1919 University, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-645-2948 or 1-888-NAMI-HELPS
www.namihelps.org



School-linked Mental Health Grants

Next steps for school-linked mental health

- Approximately \$13 million would be required to expand access so school-linked mental health services in every school building.

Minnesota's school-linked mental health program is a national model. Early diagnosis and evidence-based treatment has led to a decrease in suspensions, reduced office referrals, and better mental health outcomes for Minnesota students. We should build on this success and work towards having school-linked mental health services in every school building.