

Applications will be accepted from North Dakota public or private elementary or secondary schools which meet the following criteria:

- Utilized ND State Medicaid reimbursement during the previous school year.
- Submit a plan to the Behavioral Health Division detailing collaboration with other regional school districts regarding student behavioral health needs and the use of grant funding to develop student behavioral health interventions.

BACKGROUND

The ND 66th Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 2012 appropriating \$1,500,000 to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of providing behavioral health services and support grants to school districts to address student behavioral health needs.

Through the passage of Senate Bill 2012, North Dakota took a step towards supporting a comprehensive effort to coordinate behavioral health services in schools. The ND 67th and 68th Legislative Assembly have passed a continuation to Senate Bill 2012 to continue funding for behavioral health efforts in ND schools.

Behavioral health is a state of mental/emotional being and/or choices and actions that affect wellness. Examples include:

- Preventing and treating depression and anxiety or other mental health conditions
- Preventing and treating substance use disorders or other addictions
- Supporting recovery
- Creating healthy communities
- Promoting overall well-being

The North Dakota Behavioral Health System is grounded on the Institute of Medicine's Continuum of Care model. The goal of this model is to ensure there is access to a full range of high-quality services to meet the various needs of North Dakotans. The services available throughout this continuum should reflect current knowledge and technology and be grounded in evidence-based practice. Throughout all levels of the continuum, there should be a continuous promotion of healthy behaviors and lifestyles, a primary driver of health outcomes.

CONTRACT DATES

The contract will run from the acceptance date through June 30, 2025. Applications are due no later than March 31, 2025.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The goal of this project is to identify and address gaps along the behavioral health continuum of care. This includes identifying prevention and early intervention services that have no other funding source, using funds to reimburse clinical or treatment services that are effective but not currently covered services, and filling gaps in service coverage for populations that do not qualify for other forms of reimbursement.

Most clinical behavioral health services are billable, and those services should be billed through insurance (Medicaid, etc.), therefore a school cannot use grant funding for these services. Project funds must be used to supplement existing federal, state or local funds and not replace federal, state or local funds that have been appropriated or allocated for the same purpose.

Review examples of what the project funds can and cannot be used for here: hhs.nd.gov/education/grant-funding.

EXPECTATIONS/SCOPE OF WORK

Vendor shall implement activities as approved based on the application submitted to the State. Vendor shall communicate any adjustments to the submitted and approved activities and budget line items to the State prior to implementation.

Vendor shall not utilize funds for any service in which reimbursement is available. Vendor shall ensure funds are used to supplement existing federal, state or local funds and not replace federal, state or local funds that have been appropriated or allocated for the same purpose.

Vendor shall implement processes to ensure expenditures billed to this grant program are eligible:

- Supporting behavioral health services for students.
- Used for services not reimbursable through other sources (the Behavioral Health Grant funds are funding of last resort)

Vendor shall ensure project aligns directly with the Behavioral Health Division values of evidence-based; person-centered; trauma-informed; and recovery-focused.

Vendor shall participate in training and technical assistance provided by the State.

Vendor shall report quarterly to the Behavioral Health Division on progress, following template provided by the Behavioral Health Division.

Vendor shall create a final quarterly report demonstrating progress and outcomes of project and submit to the Behavioral Health Division by June 30, 2024.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION

The eligible amount for each school/district/unit is based on their ND State Medicaid reimbursement during the previous school year and the amount of funding that has been appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

DEADLINE AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Application may be submitted at any time, but applicant must wait a minimum of forty-five (45) days before submitting additional application to allow for time to process. If you have any concerns about your application, please contact kastastny@nd.gov.

** Applications will not be accepted past March 31, 2025.*

REVIEW PROCESS

The Department of Health and Human Services' Behavioral Health Division will review completed applications for collaboration and communication efforts, allowable expenses and overall plan. The applicant will be notified by email of the awarded grant and approved budget items. If awarded, the Behavioral Health Division will begin processing grant documents and behavioral health efforts will be able to begin at that time.

Once approved, a summary of your efforts and contact person will be shared to the Behavioral Health School Grant funding website to aide in collaboration with other districts and schools.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions, please contact kastastny@nd.gov.