

Federal Grants to Address School Psychology Shortages and Expand Access to Mental Health Services

There is a critical shortage in school psychology, both in terms of practitioners and in the availability of graduate education programs and faculty needed to train the workforce necessary to keep up with the growing student population. Shortages in school psychology, like shortages in other related education and mental health professions, have the potential to significantly undermine the availability of high-quality services to students, families, and schools. Due to increasing interest in addressing this issue among federal policy makers, there are several competitive federal grants that can assist state leaders in remedying shortages in their own states.

Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Education Agency Grants

- **Purpose:** Build or expand the capacity of State Education Agencies, in partnership with State Mental Health Agencies (SMHAs) overseeing school-aged youth and with three local education agencies (LEAs), to: (1) increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth; (2) provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues; and (3) connect school-aged youth, who may have behavioral health issues (including serious emotional disturbance [SED] or serious mental illness [SMI]), and their families to needed services.
- **Who can apply?** State Education Agencies (SEAs) or Education Agencies/Authorities serving children and youth residing in federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes
- **Learn more** [here](#).

School Climate Transformation Grants

- **Purpose:** Provide grants to local education agencies (LEAs) to develop, enhance, or expand systems of support for, and technical assistance to, schools implementing an evidence-based multi-tiered behavioral framework for improving behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for all students.
- **Who can apply?** Local education agencies (LEAs) or consortia of LEAs
- **Learn more** [here](#).

Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grants

- **Purpose:** Provides competitive grants to support and demonstrate innovative partnerships to train school-based mental health service providers for employment in schools and local educational agencies (LEAs).
- **Who can apply?** High-need LEAs; State Educational Agencies (SEAs) on behalf of one or more high-need LEA(s). Applicants must propose to work in partnership with an eligible institution of higher education (IHE).
- **Learn more** [here](#).

School-Based Mental Health Services Grants

- **Purpose:** Provide competitive grants to State Education Agencies to increase the number of qualified mental health service providers that provide school-based mental health services to students in local educational agencies with demonstrated need.
- **Who can apply?** State Education Agencies (SEAs)
- **Learn more [here](#).**

IDEA Special Education – State Personnel Development Grants

- **Purpose:** Provides grants to help State Education Agencies (SEAs) reform and improve their systems for personnel preparation and professional development of individuals providing early intervention, educational, and transition services to improve results for children with disabilities.
- **Who can apply?** State Education Agencies (SEAs)
- **Learn more [here](#).**

IDEA Special Education-Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities

- **Purpose:** Helps meet state-identified needs for adequate numbers of fully certified personnel to serve children with disabilities
- **Who can apply?** institutions of higher education (IHEs), local education agencies (LEAs), nonprofit organizations, state education agencies (SEAs), and other organizations and/or agencies.
- **Learn more [here](#).**

Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Professionals

- **Purpose:** Aims to increase the supply of behavioral health professionals while also improving distribution of a quality behavioral health workforce and thereby increasing access to behavioral health services. A special focus is placed on the knowledge and understanding of children, adolescents, and transitional-aged youth at risk for behavioral health disorders.
- **Who can apply?** Accredited institutions of higher education or accredited professional training programs that are establishing or expanding internships or other field placement programs in a variety of mental and behavioral health fields (see link below for additional details. Accredited doctoral, internship, and post-doctoral residency programs of health service psychology (including clinical psychology, counseling, and school psychology); and accredited master's and doctoral degree programs of social work for the development and implementation of interdisciplinary training of social work graduate students for providing behavioral health services, including trauma-informed care and substance use disorder prevention and treatment.
- **Learn more [here](#).**