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SUB 1 to 2021 RES-012

**ACCEPTING REVENUE AND AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FOR GRANT
MAKING FOR K-12 EMOTIONAL WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
GRANTS -DCDHS – PEI DIVISION**

Dane County Department of Human Services' (DCDHS) Prevention and Early Intervention Division (PEI) is seeking spending authority to utilize American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021 funds to provide bridge funding to Dane County area school districts to meet mental health and wellness needs of Dane County K-12 students.

PEI is seeking funding authority to offer and allocate one-time grants to Dane County Public School Districts to assist K-12 students and their parents/caregivers in meeting student mental health and wellness needs during the transitional period of re-entry to physical school settings during the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Only Dane County Public School Districts are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. This funding opportunity is not open to private schools, individual schools within a school district, other units of state or local government, or private for-profit or not-for-profit entities or individuals. These grant monies are not designed to replace K-12 funding from ARP, but rather to offer bridge funding to assist students and their families until area school districts are able to launch their own independent ARP plans. The proposed grant design reflects the need to institute programming and supports quickly, and includes flexibility to address the needs of individual school districts as schools and communities transition back to in-person schooling and COVID-19 vaccines become more widely available in our community.

Grant activities may include the following: expansion of, or needed adaptation to, any currently provided mental health supports offered by Dane County School Districts, youth and/or parent/caregiver peer support, resource linkage or navigation, wellness activities, purchases of computer software and/or hardware, or online subscriptions to support student/family mental health or mental wellness or other related materials, or one time basic needs allocations for families to help promote safety and wellbeing.

In compliance with 2021 RES-013, Following is the statement of justification, explanation of expected outcomes and plan for quarterly data collection and other outcome measures.

This funding responds to noted mental health concerns of Dane K-12 students during the COVID19 pandemic by providing short term resources that expand current mental health supports for students and help bolster wellness and wellbeing. In addition to concerns from school districts about the need for short term resources to meet growing student mental health challenges, the April 2021 edition of the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health Fact Sheet cites that Wisconsin Health Insurance companies have seen a 100% increase in the number of self-harm, substance use and mental health claims for teens between calendar years 2019 and 2020. This same publication calls upon policy makers to increase student mental health supports especially in school settings.

The K12 Emotional Wellness and Mental Health Support Grant application required that this funding could not be used to supplant other funding sources or duplicate current services or activities.

52
53 This funding does not expressly leverage or require current partnerships in order to
54 execute the activities, however the creation of the grant framework and confirmation of
55 current Dane County K-12 student mental health and wellness needs was done in
56 partnership with Dane County's Children's Mental Health Collaborative and staff from
57 Public Health Madison and Dane County.
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59 Guidance regarding the ability to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding for issuance
60 of the K12 Emotional Wellness and Mental Health grants was obtained in review of
61 HR1319 - The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 by the Dane County Department of
62 Administration and the Corporation Counsel's Office.
63

64 This funding seeks to increase mental health service and resource linkage for K12
65 students by 50%; to expand overall mental health supports by 40%; to increase wellness
66 activities by 40% and to ensure sustainability plans for all funded activities. The lowered
67 percentage increases were set to reflect to shorter time frame for the execution of
68 allowed grant activities. The funding also seeks to ensure that immediate basic family
69 needs are met to help ensure overall well-being is achieved.
70

71 Implementation progress will be reported quarterly in a one page report that will be
72 submitted by the funded school district prior to the release the quarterly payment. A final
73 summary report will be submitted by the funded school district by December 31, 2022
74 indicating progress in achieving performance indicators, the manner in which the activity
75 addressed equity, and sustainability plans for the continuation of the activity or indication
76 of goal completion (including rationale and metrics if applicable).
77 The ongoing quarterly report is not required for contracts under \$20,000.
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79 Owing to the current school year calendar, and K-12 ARP funding processes, this
80 resolution is also seeking the ability to carry forward these funds and expenditures
81 through December 31, 2022.
82

83 All grant awards are under \$100,000.-except for the following school districts:
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89 The Oregon School District is receiving funds to expand current existing partnerships
90 with mental health providers (including providers of color) to ease access for under
91 insured and uninsured populations, create and expand mindfulness spaces for students
92 district-wide and expand tools in social emotional learning curriculums for a total of
93 \$103,119.
94

95 The Verona Area School District is receiving funds to expand Zones of Regulation and
96 create calming mindfulness spaces in all elementary schools, increase suicide
97 prevention efforts and restorative practices in middle and high school, and expand
98 responsive classrooms and assist with multiple family basic needs requests district wide
99 for a total of \$450,000.
100

101 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following revenue account be added to
102 the Prevention and Early Intervention Division of the Dane County Department of Human

