



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Public and Charter Schools

From: Office of Student, School, and Family Engagement

Date: September 16, 2022

Subject: Call for Letters of Interest for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Project AWARE Grant Proposal

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), in partnership with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's (FSSA's) Division of Mental Health & Addiction (DMHA), is writing a proposal for the competitive [Project AWARE FY 2022 Grant](#) released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. IDOE's proposal will build off Indiana's [current Project AWARE successes](#) to continue developing sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health programs and services. Outlined in the proposal will be activities to support implementation of school-based mental health related promotion, awareness, prevention, intervention, and resilience activities to ensure that students are aware of and have access to appropriate and effective behavioral health services.

IDOE is seeking letters of interest (LOI) from schools and their existing community-based or private mental health providers demonstrating the need for and commitment to the following:

- Collaboration with IDOE/DMHA project leaders and participation in the full project period which runs from Saturday, December 31, through December 30, 2026.
- Readiness for implementation of a multi-tiered, school-based mental health prevention and intervention system including:
 - Tier 1: A comprehensive mental health awareness and literacy program targeting youth, their families, and school staff that creates a de-stigmatized school climate; student suicide awareness, prevention and postvention training program; and a violence prevention program that includes training and process for assessing safety and risk along with a multi-disciplinary risk assessment team.
 - Tier 2: Development of a process to screen and identify youth in need of mental health services and support and brief intervention services to support youth who are experiencing distress, trauma, or bereavement, or are at-risk for development of mental health and substance use disorders.
 - Tier 3: Referral pathways for students needing more intensive services for school-based or community mental health; and development and implementation



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of a crisis response plan for youth exhibiting behaviors warranting the need for emergent or urgent clinical attention.

- Assurance that programs, practices, and policies for improving behavioral health will be high quality, [recovery-oriented](#), [trauma-informed](#), and [equity-based](#), providing access and opportunity for all.
- Engagement in activities to assist teachers and school personnel to develop skills that promote staff wellness, mental well-being, and resilience.
- Capacity for hiring a full-time district-level coordinator with dedicated time for grant activities and evaluation efforts required for Project AWARE. This position and other local grant activities will be funded with a \$70,000 base for salary and an additional per pupil allocation to support local project goals.

LOIs must be sent to info@projectawarein.org by Friday, September 23. Schools will be notified of the status of their LOI selection by the end of September and pending Notice of Award by SAMHSA, activities will begin on Friday, December 30.

If you have any questions, please email the IDOE Student, School, and Family Engagement team at info@projectawarein.org.