



New Hampshire

Department of Education

New Hampshire Department of Education – Office of Social and Emotional Wellness

iSocial: Improving Social Emotional Outcomes through Complementary Infrastructure and Leadership

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):

OSEW-2022-004

Posted: September 23rd, 2022

Application Due Date: October 14th, 2022



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Contents

Section 1: Project Overview & Schedule	3
Section 2: Description of Agency & Eligible Applicants	5
Section 3: Project Design	6
Section 4: Application Content and Scoring Criteria	8
APPENDICES: Application Forms	9
• Appendix A: Application Cover Page	
• Appendix B: Current Efforts	
• Appendix C: Project Implementation	
• Appendix D: School, District, and/or Community Readiness	
• Alignment with district goals	
• Whole-school framework	
• Family voice	
• Community engagement	
• Appendix E: School, District, and/or Community Willingness to Implement	
• Appendix F: Administrator Commitment	
• Appendix G: Directions for Application Submission	

Section 1: Project Overview & Schedule

A. Executive Summary

The iSocial: Improving Social Emotional Outcomes through Complementary Infrastructure and Leadership (iSocial) Project is an exciting partnership between the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education Support and Office of Social and Emotional Wellness. This project is funded by a State Personnel Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs grant number H323A170029. The 5-year grant began in the fall of 2017 and ran through summer 2022 and will continue, a one-year, No Cost Extension, until June 30, 2023.

The goal of this funding opportunity is to improve social-emotional outcomes of preschool students with disabilities through the implementation of the evidence-based Pyramid Model Framework (PMF).

Selected LEAs will adopt the PMF and participate in training and technical assistance to support leadership and infrastructure development, data collection and analysis, strategic planning and sustainability of PMF practices.

B. Through participation in the iSocial Project, LEAs can expect to:

- Establish and maintain a school-based leadership team with membership
- Ensure leadership team member and staff release time to attend trainings, coaching sessions, and participate in required meetings
- Conduct monthly Implementation Site Leadership Team meetings (1-2 hours/meeting) to:
 - Engage annually in Program-wide PMF Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ)
 - Develop and monitor a school-based action plan with a focus on implementation and sustainability
- Implement action steps from the site-based action plan
- Identify practitioner(s) to receive practice-based coaching
- Participate in Community Leadership Team meetings, if available and as appropriate to communicate implementation barriers, successes, needs
- Participate in professional development based on need and prior experience estimated to be 5-7 days per year, plus virtual meetings
- Support participation in coaching for up to two practitioners for approximately eight hours per month per practitioner
- Collect and report timely and complete data, sharing data with key partners, maintaining appropriate confidentiality, and making decisions based on data
- Identify a Data Coordinator to oversee data collection and support Leadership Teams in accessing and using data for decision making

- Identify a Data System Coordinator to request permissions and access to the Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS) for local iSocial participants
- Ensure timely data collection and entry based on the iSocial data collection calendar
- Reviewing data and engage in data-based decision making throughout the implementation process

C. Project Schedule

The following table provides the timeline for this project. NHED reserves the right to amend this schedule at its sole discretion and at any time through written notification.

EVENT	DATE	LOCAL TIME
Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcement Posting	9/23/2022	4:00 PM
Applicant Inquiry Period Ends (<i>applicants can ask questions re: this FOA</i>)	10/07/2022	4:00 PM
Agency Responses to Applicant Inquiries (<i>applicants can expect reply to FOA queries</i>)	10/11/2022	4:00 PM
Application Deadline	10/21/2022	4:00 PM
Anticipated Grant Award Notification and Grants Management System Allocation	10/28/2022	4:00 PM
LEA Budget Preparation in Grants Management System Deadline	11/14/2022	4:00 PM
Project Period	September 23, 2022 - June 30, 2023	
Baseline Data Due (Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ))	01/15/2023	4:00 PM
Final Reporting, Expenditures, and Supporting Documentation Due	07/30/2023	4:00 PM

A. Description of Agency

The iSocial: Improving Social Emotional Outcomes through Complementary Infrastructure and Leadership (iSocial) Project is an exciting partnership between the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education Support and Office of Social and Emotional Wellness.

B. Eligible Applicants

Any New Hampshire Local Education Agency (LEA), including traditional public schools and Public Chartered Schools, is eligible to apply with the endorsement of their Superintendent or its governing body.

While the LEA serves as the applicant, the scope of the work proposed will involve Preschool Special Education and Kindergarten. LEAs are encouraged to strategically consider the readiness, willingness, and need of individual schools when applying to ensure sustainability beyond the life of the project.

The PMF is a social and emotional learning framework that-- when implemented with fidelity-- promotes young children's healthy development and prevents challenging behaviors. The core work in the Model focuses on building the adults' skills so that they can support children's social and emotional health. This is done through strengthening relationships and directly teaching emotional literacy, self-regulation, listening, friendship skills, and basic problem solving. The Model addresses how and when to identify and provide for children who may need individualized supports.

A core feature of this project is to align PMF with NHED's MTSS-B framework. Therefore, Applicants must have demonstrated a commitment to support the exploration of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B) in their K-12 schools. If applicable, the most recent Enhanced Tiered Fidelity Inventory (eTFI) or the NH MTSS-B Fidelity Inventory (NH-MFI) may be submitted to demonstrate commitment. You can learn more about MTSS-B and the NH-MFI process, [here](#).

It is recommended that your team complete the [Exploring the Pyramid Model Framework Virtual Work Series](#). This multi-part, virtual series provides information, tools and resources to help you begin to explore the PMF, decide if it is a good fit for your program and consider program-wide implementation.

Section 3: Project Design

A. Project Requirements

The following required parameters exist on awarded applications:

1. Maximum awards are not to exceed \$50,000.
2. Funds and activities must be completed within the performance period.
3. Funds must support:
 - Two (2) Practitioners at the school receiving Practice-based Coaching and each have a TPOT administered twice (fall 2022 and spring 2023)
 - One (1) Process Coach to support Leadership Team
 - Substitutes for time away from classroom for coaching, trainings meetings
 - Supplies needed for implementation
4. You will be provided with One (1) OSEW Regional Consultant to support an internal Program Coach and the Leadership Team.
5. A leadership team must be established that includes both representatives with decision-making authority (i.e., Principal, Special Education Director, Administrator) and representatives of teaching staff, support staff and family members.
 - The leadership team meets monthly for 1-2 hours.
 - The leadership team completes the Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ) annually. The BoQ is a self-assessment tool the leadership team completes to measure their progress of implementation.
 - The leadership team uses their BoQ data to develop an action plan that addresses their priority areas.
 - Leadership team members and other program staff participate in professional development that supports their understanding of the PMF and evidenced-based practices.
 - The Leadership Team reviews its data on a regular basis and utilizes it to inform decision making throughout the implementation process.
 - The Leadership Team shares non-identifiable, aggregated data from the PIDS or other agreed upon data source with the NHED, and the PM State Leadership Team to inform the ongoing development of a state infrastructure that supports PM implementation.
6. Teachers ('practitioners') engaged in practice-based coaching have adequate release time to attend trainings, coaching sessions and required meetings.

B. Scope of Work

Successful applicants will:

- Demonstrate existing commitment to NHED's MTSS-B Framework.
- Demonstrate commitment to the adoption of and readiness to implement the

PMF.

- Develop and demonstrate a connection between iSocial activities and long-term efforts, including multi-year plans and systems development and integration.
- Provide evidence of connections to and alignment with other school, district, and/or community efforts.
- Receive technical assistance and support in establishing a leadership team, completing the Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ), developing an action plan and using data to make decisions that will support fidelity implementation.
- Receive high quality, professional development and technical assistance to support long-term implementation of the PMF. Some examples include:
 - Training specific to PMF practices, fidelity measures, family engagement, etc.
 - Technical assistance/Systems Coaching for leadership teams
 - Funds to support Practice-based Coaching and the administration of the TPOT fidelity tool.
- Data system access

Applicants will be prepared to begin training and implementation upon award in Fall 2022.

C. Performance Period and Number of Districts Selected

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education Supports and the Office of Social Emotional Wellness expects to identify five (5) districts to participate in the iSocial project, pending availability of funding. The performance period runs through June 30, 2023.

Section 4: Application Content and Scoring Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored using the following scoring criteria:

- Application Cover Page (Appendix A)
- LEA Current Efforts (Appendix B) – 30 points
- Project Implementation (Appendix C) – 30 points
- School, District, and/or Community Fit (Appendix D) – 20 points, outlined below:
 - Alignment with district goals (5 points)
 - Tiered-prevention framework (5 points)
 - Family voice (5 points)
 - Community engagement (5 points)
- School, District, and/or Community Capacity to Implement (Appendix E) - 15 points
- Administrator(s) signature(s) indicating commitment to participate in and support the iSocial project and initiatives (Appendix G) – 5 points

If applicable, please submit the most recent Enhanced Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) or NH MTSS-B Fidelity Inventory (NH-MFI) for your District/Schools to demonstrate commitment to MTSS-B.

If you are unable to answer any of the application questions as a result of insufficient infrastructure, services or resources in place, mark N/A, and provide an explanation of how you intend to support collection of that information in the future. The total number of points awarded will be an important factor but not the only consideration in selecting districts. Other factors may include geographic distribution, size and demographic diversity of applicants.

The Department of Education reserves the right to seek clarification of any information contained in a submitted application for this initiative.

APPENDICES: Application Forms

*The following forms may be used by applicants to construct their package.
Applicants may also use their own forms, provided that all of the section titles
and required information are included.*

Appendix A: iSocial Cover Page

LEA	
Name of Person Completing Application	
Role/Title of Named Person Above	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Superintendent Name	
District Project Manager /MTSS-B internal Coach	
Phone number	
Email Address	
Collaborative Community Partner(s) (if applicable)	

How many schools (schools that house Preschool Special Education; Kindergarten) are in your district?	
Name of participating school and corresponding administrator	

Appendix B: Current Efforts

In the spaces provided below, please describe your current efforts in supporting young children’s social emotional development and preventing challenging behaviors within your program. Successful applicants will include information about multi-year planning, data collection, and connection to other community efforts. (30 points)

Project Implementation Summary:

Appendix C: Project Implementation

Describe the outcomes you hope for your program in participating in implementing the Pyramid Model Framework through the iSocial Project. Include outcomes for staff, students, and the broader community. (30 points)

Appendix D: School, District, and Community Fit

The applicant must assess the fit of Pyramid Model Framework (PMF) within their district and community systems, culture, and environment to ensure sustainability of the framework. Community engagement with students, families, educators, child-serving organizations, municipalities, etc. is central to maximizing efforts, ensuring long-term sustainability, and fostering positive outcomes for children and youth. Outline how your implementing site has demonstrated readiness to adopt and implement PMF and will sustain the work after the grant period. (20 points total)

Please explain how your school district’s vision and mission align with the efforts proposed in this application. (5 points)

Please describe how your school district utilizes a whole-school, multi-tiered framework to address social and emotional wellness, including the prevention of risky behaviors, such as substance misuse, and the promotion of protective factors amongst the student body. (5 points)

Please describe how your school district empowers family voice within the whole-school, multi-tiered framework. Identify ways that family voice will be used to address and support the proposal outlined in this application. (5 points)

Please describe how your school district interfaces with the broader community and other child-serving organizations within the whole-school, multi-tiered framework. Identify ways that these collaborative relationships will be leveraged to address and support the proposal outlined in this application. (5 points)

Appendix E: School, District, and Community Capacity

Capacity to engage in and support the proposed project implementation will be key to success. Please describe the plan to obtain buy-in from all relevant stakeholders, including students, families, educators, and community members. Also, describe your existing communications strategy and ability to share information about this project throughout implementation. (15 points)

Appendix F: Administrative Commitment

The following administrators and community partners (if applicable) have committed to implement this project as proposed. They understand the project and its requirements and will support all activities, engagement, and evaluation described herein. Additional lines may be added to this chart. (5 points)

Name	Title	Signature
	Superintendent	
	Director of Student Services	
	Director of Student Wellness	
	Building Administrator: [School Name]	
	Community Partner (if applicable)	
	Person completing the application	
	Person designated as Project Manager/Team Lead	

Appendix G: Directions for Application Submission

Completed applications shall include all appendices outlined in this guidance document. In the event that the applicant elects to not use the provided templates, the applicant is responsible for providing all requested information and formatting the document using the same section titles. Any information that is not clearly identified will not be considered during scoring.

Completed applications must be submitted by the deadline. Please submit applications via email with the subject title “[District Name] - iSocial NH Application” to:

Molly White
Office of Social and Emotional Wellness
NH Department of Education
25 Hall Street, Concord NH 0330
Molly.V.White@doe.nh.gov
(603) 931 - 2831

All questions regarding this application must be directed only to the Office of Social and Emotional Wellness.