



New Hampshire

Department of Education

New Hampshire Department of Education – Bureau of Student Wellness and Nutrition

NH School Safe: Threat Assessment Micro-grant

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):

FOA # BSW-2021-002

Posted: October 12, 2021

Application Due Date: November 05, 2021



New Hampshire

Department of Education

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Section 1: Project Overview & Schedule

A. Executive Summary

In 2018, the New Hampshire Department of Education’s Bureau of Student Wellness and Nutrition (NH DOE BSW) received a STOP School Violence Threat Assessment grant. This program is “designed to improve school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent acts of violence. It provides funding to “develop threat assessment and crisis intervention teams, designed to identify threats before they materialize, including those that originate from individuals with mental health issues; and for the training of students, school personnel and local law enforcement officers so that they can partner in preventing violent events from happening.”

Therefore, the primary aim of the NH School Safe project is to support the creation or enhancement of behavior intervention teams (BITs) in schools based on best practices. While many LEAs have crisis intervention teams that fill emergency response roles, as well as student management teams (tier 2/3 teams) that flag concerning student behavior, it is common for those teams to function as siloes from each other and additional community supports.

A BIT, by contrast, is a multi-disciplinary group that helps detect early indicators of potential disruptive conduct, self-harm, and violence to others. The team uses an established protocol to support students, employees, faculty, staff, communities, and workplaces. When a BIT gets a report of problematic or concerning behavior, the team determines the best way to support, intervene, and respond, which may mean employing a clinician to conduct a threat assessment. The team then deploys its plan and coordinates a follow-up. Student voice and choice are central to threat assessment and subsequent care planning.

Through NH School Safe, awarded LEAs will use data to determine needs and gaps before launching or revamping their behavior intervention teams. All of this work will be done under the umbrella of New Hampshire’s Multi-tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health & Wellness (MTSS-B). MTSS-B is a community-driven preventative framework and process for aligning a continuum of supports. Within MTSS-B, participating communities mobilize people to collect and analyze data, make a data-driven strategic plan, and implement and evaluate evidence-based strategies to support the behavioral health and wellness of all students (universal), those with slightly elevated needs (targeted), and those experiencing the most challenges (intensive). MTSS-B is a culturally competent approach that is family- and youth-driven.

Selected districts will attend a foundational training designed to provide grant staff with an introduction to the central tenets of MTSS-B and the ways in which this grant opportunity fits into the framework. The training will include didactic elements and will provide participants opportunities for reflection, skill building, and action planning. Participants will understand the importance of the development of protective factors and the elimination and mitigation of risk factors in preventing school violence.

Through participation in the NH School Safe project, local districts and schools are expected to:

- Create or enhance a behavior intervention team (BIT) with diverse stakeholders
- Build the capacity of the BIT through training, shared understanding, common tools, policies and procedures, including establishing a threat assessment protocol
- Explore Multi-tiered Systems of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B) as the holistic framework through which threat assessment activities succeed

Areas of focus include:

- Implementation of threat assessment tools
- Creation of strategic relationships
- Identification and enhancement of existing protective factors
- Identification and analysis of community needs

B. Project Schedule

The following table provides the timeline for this project. The Agency 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	10/12/21	4:00 PM
Applicant Inquiry Period Ends	10/18/21	4:00 PM
Agency Responses to Applicant Inquiries	10/22/21	4:00 PM
Application Deadline	11/05/21	4:00 PM
Anticipated Grant Award Notification and Grants Management System Allocation	11/19/21	4:00 PM
LEA Budget Preparation in Grants Management System Deadline	11/30/22	4:00 PM
Project Period Begins	11/19/22	8:00 AM
Project Period Ends	9/30/22	4:00 PM
Final Reporting, Expenditures, and Supporting Documentation Due	11/15/22	4:00 PM

Section 2: Description of Agency & Eligible Applicants

A. Description of Agency

NH School Safe is a project funded by the Federal Department of Justice – Bureau for Justice Assistance through the STOP School Violence grant.

NH School Safe is carried out by the New Hampshire Department of Education’s Bureau of Student Wellness and Nutrition (NH DOE) in partnership with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and with the support of the New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Homeland Security & Emergency Management – School Readiness team.

B. Eligible Applicants

Any New Hampshire Local Education Agency (LEA) is eligible to apply with the endorsement of their Superintendent, provided that the applicant is not a current STOP School Violence grantee.

New Hampshire Public Academies, Public Chartered Schools, and approved Special Education Schools are eligible to apply in a joint application with their participating LEA.

While the District serves as the applicant, the scope of the work proposed need not be district-wide. LEAs are encouraged to strategically consider the readiness, willingness, and need of their schools when applying to ensure sustainability beyond the life of the project.

Applicants must have demonstrated a commitment to support the exploration of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B). MTSS-B is a community-driven preventative framework and process for aligning a continuum of supports. Within MTSS-B, participating communities mobilize people to collect and analyze data, make a data-driven strategic plan, and implement and evaluate evidence-based strategies to support the behavioral health and wellness of all students (*universal*), those with slightly elevated needs (*targeted*), and those experiencing the most challenges (*intensive*). MTSS-B is a culturally competent approach that is family- and youth-driven.

Selected grantees must be able to furnish proof of good standing in the System for Award Management (SAM) before being issued an award.

Section 3: Project Design

A. Project Design

The following parameters exist on awarded applications:

1. Awards are not to exceed \$25,000, depending on number of applicants, we may be able to increase this award. .
2. Funds must be spent before September 30, 2022. Requests for no-cost extensions must be made, in writing, to the Office of Social and Emotional Wellness at least three months prior to the expiration date.
3. Applicants must be prepared to contract with the National Association of Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment (NABITA) for the K-12 BIT STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES COURSE (see NABITA SONH Training Package Options PDF for package details), a required implementation activity. Applicants should budget for their preferred package.
4. Applicants must name a District Task Lead for project management in the application.
5. A 50% LEA match is required to demonstrate buy-in and ensure sustainability of grant activities. LEAs can provide this match amount by documenting non-Federal funding sources that support the goals of this project, in-kind contributions in support of the grant, or a combination thereof. Consideration should be given to the match requirement at the outset of this application and included in the budget (Appendix F). A form will be provided to awarded LEAs to plan and report their match contributions.

Allowable activities and expenses include:

- Professional development and capacity building
- Supplies/materials
- Curriculum
- Public awareness campaigns

B. Scope of Work

Successful applicants will:

- Formulate a written, data-driven action plan that outlines implementation timeline to create or enhance a behavior intervention team (also called a BIT, threat assessment, or crisis prevention team);

- Provide evidence of connections to and alignment with other school and community violence prevention efforts, especially partnership with local law enforcement;
- Reflect on the way data (including threat assessment) is currently collected and propose changes as necessary;
- Develop and demonstrate a connection between NH School Safe activities and long-term efforts, including multi-year plans and systems development and integration.

Examples of allowable activities through NH School Safe funding, in addition to the required NABITA training, are:

- Trainings and materials to build understanding of threat assessment models
- Training around motivational interviewing for qualified school or community clinicians
- Training in crisis prevention strategies (e.g. Crisis Prevention Institute training and certification)
- Training in early warning signs/violence prevention (e.g. suicide prevention train-the-trainer)
- Threat assessment tools and tracking software (e.g. SIVRA-35, Comprehensive School Threat Assessment, ERIS, etc.)
- Universal screeners (e.g. DESSA, SAEBERS, etc.)
- School climate data management systems, such as the Schoolwide Information System (SWIS) or EdClick's School Safety Manager

Over the past several years, NH School Districts and communities have invested heavily in prevention efforts. Prevention activities (tier I) may be proposed by applicants in concert with threat assessment trainings, tools, materials, etc. above that would be considered tier 2/3 intervention supports and strategies. Examples of potential prevention activities include:

- Too Good for Violence
- ChooSELove
- Life of an Athlete
- Botvin Life Skills
- Lion's Quest
- 40 Developmental Assets
- Trauma-responsive schools training

C. Evaluation

Evaluation is required by the Department of Justice, and participating LEAs will be expected to report quantitative and qualitative data to the Bureau of Student Wellness and Nutrition on a semi-annual basis at minimum. The NHDOE will provide a template for reporting to participating LEAs. Performance measures that LEAs must track and report are:

OBJ. 1 THREAT ASSESSMENT

Objective 1.1: Ensure individuals determined to be a potential threat to themselves or others receive a school threat assessment and are referred for services.

- A. Number of individuals determined by a school counselor as needing an assessment? (e.g., threat assessment)
 - a. Of those, how many received the assessment within 24 hours?
 - b. Please name the threat assessment tool used.
- B. Number of individuals receiving a clinical assessment (e.g., threat assessment) by licensed professional?
 - a. Of those, number of individuals that are determined as being a threat to themselves or others?
 - b. Of those, number of individuals that are referred to a program?
- C. Number of individuals that have received a clinical assessment (e.g., threat assessment) more than once in the last 90 days?

OBJ. 2 INTERVENTION TEAMS

Objective 2: Establish or enhance intervention teams that identify school violence and mitigate those risks.

- A. [If grantee did not already have an intervention team] Indicate the date the intervention team was established (if multiple intervention teams have been established, report each separately)
 - a. Please indicate the number of schools with a newly formed intervention team (report only once).
- B. [If grantee already had an intervention team] Did the grantee use grant funds to expand or enhance their intervention team by provided training to intervention team members (e.g., training, membership, or access to programming)? (Yes/No)
- C. [If grantee already had an intervention team] Did the grantee use grant funds to expand or enhance their intervention team by implementing a new model (e.g., CARE, BIT, etc.)? (Yes/No)
- D. [If grantee already had an intervention team] Did the grantee use grant funds to expand or enhance their intervention team by providing increased access to student programming? (Yes/No)
- E. Please indicate the number of schools that enhanced their intervention team (report

them only once).

- F. Number of issues or crises the intervention team responded to?
 - a. Of those, how many issue/crises fell into the following categories-Violence?
 - b. Of those, how many issue/crises fell into the following categories-Threat of violence?
 - c. Of those, how many issue/crises fell into the following categories-Suicidal threat or attempt?
 - d. Of those, how many issue/crises fell into the following categories-Other?
 - e. Of those, how many students were directly involved in the issue/crisis?
- G. Indicate the positions that are represented on the intervention team:
 - a. Case Manager (Yes/No)
 - b. Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent (Yes/No)
 - c. Guidance Counselor(s) (Yes/No)
 - d. School Psychologist (or other clinically licensed professional) (Yes/No)
 - e. School Health Professional (e.g., school nurse) (Yes/No)
 - f. School Principal/Assistant Principal (Yes/No)
 - g. Legal Counsel (Yes/No)
 - h. Faculty Representative(s) (Yes/No)
 - i. Public Relations/Media Relations Coordinator (Yes/No).

D. Performance Period and Number of Districts Selected

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Office of Social & Emotional Wellness expects to add at least nine districts to add its NH School Safe: Threat Assessment project. The performance period runs through September 30, 2022. At least one district will be chosen from each region of the state. Regional boundaries and designations are determined by the NH Department of Education:

- North Country Region
- Lakes Region
- South East Region
- South West Region
- South Central Region

Selected districts will receive technical assistance and support as they move through the exploration of MTSS-B, and implementation of their funded threat assessment project. LEAs may elect to receive MTSS-B consultation and technical assistance beyond the life of the project.

Applicants will be prepared to begin training and implementation upon award in Spring 2021.

Section 4: Application Content and Scoring Criteria

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

Application Cover Page (Appendix A)	
Project Implementation and Evaluation Plan (Appendix B)	30 points
School, District, and/or Community Needs (Appendix C)	15 points
School, District, and/or Community Readiness (Appendix D)	25 points, outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with district goals (5 points) • Whole-school framework (5 points) • Student voice (5 points) • Family voice (5 points) • Community engagement (5 points)
School, District, and/or Community Willingness to Implement (Appendix E)	15 points
LEA Budget and Budget Justification (Appendix F)	10 points
Administrator(s) signature(s) indicating commitment to participate in and support the project and initiatives (Appendix G)	5 points

Applicants who are currently implementing a Multi-tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B), please submit the most recent Enhanced Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) or NH MTSS-B Fidelity Inventory (NH-MFI) for your District/Schools.

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: Cover Page

Local Education Agency (LEA)	
LEA Address	
LEA Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)	
NHDOE Grants Management System (GMS) ID	
Name and Role/Title of Person Completing Application	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Superintendent	
Business Administrator	
District Task Lead/Role	
Collaborative Community Partner(s)	

How many schools are in your LEA?	
How many schools will be participating in this project?	
Name of participating schools and corresponding administrators	
Website (if applicable)	

Signature of Person Completing Application and Date	
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Appendix B: Project Implementation and Evaluation Plan

Please describe in detail the activities proposed within this award. Successful applicants will demonstrate: a plan for the creation/enhancement of a behavior intervention team; a plan to implement a threat assessment model; connection to long-term efforts, including multi-year plans and systems development and integration; a plan to effectively track performance measures and evaluate outcomes; and connections to other community efforts. (30 points)

Appendix C: School, District, and Community Needs

The applicant must have a clear understanding of both the protective and risk factors that promote or prevent resiliency in children and youth within their schools and community. The applicant must also be able to identify the gaps in programs, infrastructure, services and available resources. The applicant must use both quantitative and qualitative data to discuss the need for threat assessment, and violence prevention programming as applicable to the proposal, in their schools and community.

Please discuss your community's needs and gaps at both the population and program level. The data may be derived from YRBS, ODRs, free and reduced lunch, etc. (15 points)

Appendix D: School, District, and Community Readiness

The applicant must demonstrate community-wide readiness to engage in threat assessment to prevent violence and crisis situations. 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. (25 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 or violence towards self or others, and the promotion of protective factors amongst the student body. (5 points)

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

Appendix E: School, District, and Community Willingness

Willingness 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: Budget and Budget Justification

The Department of Education has the ability to provide up to \$25,000 in support of the activities outlined in this proposal. Depending on the number of applicants, we may be able to provide additional funding. Please provide an itemized budget and budget justification detailing how your district would utilize this funding. Add rows as needed. (10 points)

LEA Name:
Date of Budget Submission:

REQUEST LIMIT	\$10,000
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Direct Costs:

A. Personnel	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
B. Benefits	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
C. Travel	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
D. Equipment	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
E. Supplies	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
F. Contractual	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
<i>NOTE: NABITA training contract required – include package (A or B) and costs in budget based on LEA’s preference, needs, and number of training participants.</i>	
G. Construction	N/A
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
H. Other	\$0.00
<i>Summary of expenses in this category</i>	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$0.00

Indirect Costs:

Subrecipient's approved indirect cost rate:	%
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INDIRECT COST MAXIMUM REQUEST	\$0.00
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	\$0.00

Match Requirement:

Subrecipient's match requirement	50% of request
<i>Anticipated source(s) of in-kind or match funds</i>	
MINIMUM MATCH REQUIRED	\$0.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED MATCH	\$0.00
TOTAL AWARD	\$0.00

Appendix G: Administrative Commitment

The following administrators and community partners 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]	
	Building Administrator: [School Name]	
	Building Administrator: [School Name]	
	Community Partner	
	Community Partner	
	Community Partner	

Appendix H: 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 email applications with the subject title “[LEA Name] – NH School Safe Application” to:

Jen Doris

Jennifer.f.doris@doe.nh.gov

Administrator

Office of Social and Emotional Wellness

NH Department of Education

Any and all questions regarding the application should be emailed to the Administrator.