

Proposed use of ESU 13 consortium funding for Title IV-A: Creating a Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program

Title IV-A funding

- ESU 13 already works closely with school districts to provide treatment for student needs, this consortium would fund the creation of a “Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program” Which would include the hiring of 1-2 mental health professionals who would support students and schools with direct service and community referrals/collaboration through an outreach consultant role (see attached job description), supervised by ESU 13 Behavioral Health/Mental Health Director.
- Designed to prevent and more comprehensively treat students that suffer from behavioral and mental health problems. In addition this program will focus on not just remediation of mental illness but will also focus on enhancement of emotional well-being (i.e. there will be a Mental Health focus versus a strictly Mental Illness focus)

This will include expansion of the schools ability to offer family support (therapy, consultation education and facilitate outside referrals as needed) , enhanced community connections and collaboration and provide schools with additional opportunities for professional consultation based on individual student needs.

- This program includes the development and maintenance of a resources map- with area behavioral and mental health programs/supports and clinicians- as well as information regarding other behavioral and mental health resources available across the state.
- Provides preventative care (e.g. screeners, SEL, psychoeducation, informal and formal supports, etc.) to school youth and families, as well as educational staff members. Thus, addressing issues before they become a crisis. (Too often, we focus on treatment of a crisis situation, as opposed to preventing a crisis situation from happening. This not only helps the kids, but provides a long-term cost-saving for the school, community and state.)
- Work toward expansion of psycho-educational resource library for panhandle school clinicians, families, youth and school staff – This includes an online clearing house of psycho-educational resources (e.g. handouts, video clips etc. for parents, teachers and students), concrete materials such as traveling therapy kits, therapy tools and materials, therapy manuals, training DVDs, bibliotherapy resources, etc.
- Identified areas of need within western Nebraska as well as state-wide in relation to student mental health and behavioral issues: 95% identified “People to Provide Services” as a High/Medium Priority o 92% identified “Training” as a High/Medium Priority-

Use of Title IV-A funding (if utilized within the consortium model) would expand our ability to provide more in depth services in both arrays to Panhandle Schools