

IOWA

Iowa Center for School Mental Health

Application for New Grants

Applications Open: April 1, 2022

Full Proposal Deadline: May 23, 2022

Proposals Required to Start: July 1, 2022

**Funding is provided by the Iowa Department of Education state set-aside of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021.*

PART ONE: OVERVIEW

Purpose

Funds will support intervention research to improve social, emotional, behavioral, or psychological outcomes in PreK-12 schools. Intervention research involves investigations that determine the impact of a specific practice, service, intervention, or program on selected participant outcomes. Participants whose outcomes are addressed through this proposal can include students, caregivers, PreK-12 education professionals, or mental health professionals.

MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT:

**\$250,000 over
2 years**

**Up to 4 awards will be granted¹*

Eligible Applicants

Institutes of Higher Education (IHE), non-profit organizations (as designated a 501(c)(3)), school districts, and AEAs located in the state of Iowa are eligible. Proposals for activities other than intervention research are not eligible (e.g., program evaluation, curriculum development, assessment development).

- Applicants from Iowa IHEs or non-profits must include a partnership with an Iowa public school and/or district. Funding will not be awarded to any schools/districts outside the state of Iowa.
- Competitive preference points will be given to proposals that include (a) partnerships across 2 or more universities; (b) research team personnel from 2 or more scientific disciplines (e.g., school counseling, special education, social work, medicine, etc.); and/or (c) partnerships with rural schools or high-need schools.
 - **High-need** is defined as evidencing one of the following: Title I eligibility, location in an area demonstrating shortage in mental health providers, data indicating disproportionality in disciplinary actions (e.g., ODR, suspension, expulsion, seclusion, restraint) or disability identification, Iowa School Performance Profiles (ISPP) that indicate ESSA status as Comprehensive or Targeted.

¹ The ICSMH reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in whole and in part, and to cancel this RFP at any time prior to the execution of a written contract. Issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the ICSMH to award or enter into a contract.

Principal Investigators

PIs must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field or demonstrate appropriate experience in an education or mental health research-related profession. Graduate students may be part of the research team but may not serve as PI or Co-PI on the proposal. The PI must be affiliated with an IHE located in Iowa.

Restrictions

- Budgets should not exceed \$250,000 including up to 8% indirect/F&A cost charges. **Indirect costs (F&A) are for external applicants only (non-UI).**
- All funds must be expended by September 30, 2024 and there will be no carryover of funds allowed.
- Projects may not exceed 2 years in duration.
- PIs may not submit more than one proposal to the ICSMH.

Subgrantees

Awards can be used to fund subgrantees.

PART TWO: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

PreK-12 Students, Caregivers, Teachers, School Mental Health Providers

Proposed research must focus on students, caregivers, or education professionals including teachers, or school mental health providers at the PreK-12 level. Interventions focusing on school mental health providers may include school counselors, school psychologists, behavior specialists, school social workers, student-family advocates, or other outside providers contracted to provide mental health services in the schools.

Measurable Outcomes

Projects must include high-quality, reliable, and valid measures related to social, emotional, behavioral, or psychological (SEBP) well-being for the target population. If the application focuses on adults (e.g., teachers, school mental health providers), then measures must also include a focus on SEBP awareness, knowledge, and/or competency as it relates to providing intervention to students.

General Formatting

- **Page Length & Spacing.** No more than 10 pages, single-spaced. This includes only the narrative (i.e., proposal summary, significance, research plan, personnel, budget).
- **Font.** 12-point font, Arial or Times New Roman only
- **Citations.** APA format (no numerical citations). A Reference document must be included with the application as an appendix.
- **Tables & Figures.** Tables and figures may be smaller than 12-point font but must be legible. The use of color is acceptable in charts and graphs.
- **Appendices.** *All appendices must be labeled with the appendix letter and title as shown below and attached to the project narrative as a single document.*

Appendix A (References)	A complete list of references in APA format
Appendix B (Budget & Budget Justification)	<p>If submitting a 2-year budget, applicants should delineate expenses in the first 12 months as budget period 1; with another budget specified for year 2. Grant budget totals should not exceed \$250,000 including up to 8% indirect cost charges. NB: Indirect costs are for external applicants only (non-UI). Each expense for your project should be reflected in the budget narrative with a description of that specific expense. Budgets should be divided into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel (PI, Co-PI, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Graduate Student, Researcher, Undergraduate Researcher, Other Research Staff, Other Staff) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fringe Benefits: (PI Benefits, Co-PI Benefits, Researcher Benefits, Other Staff Benefits) • Travel • Supplies • Contractual (subcontracts) • Other Direct Costs (e.g., consultant services, publication costs, dissemination): <p>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS <i>Indirect Costs (Non-UI Applicants only)</i> TOTAL COSTS</p>

Appendix C (Letters of Support)	Provide signed letters of agreement from participating schools/districts that document. Letters should describe partners' commitment to the project in terms of time, resources, and personnel. Letters of support should be included for any subcontracted institutions or entity, as well as any personnel serving in a consultant role. Similarly, letters should describe subgrantees' commitment to the project in terms of time, resources, and personnel.
Appendix D (CVs)	Include a brief CV (no more than 5 pages) for all PIs and Co-PIs. CVs should highlight experience and expertise relevant to the proposed research project.
Appendix E (Authorized Organization Representative): Signature from AOR of the Administering Organization	External applicants are required to get approval and signature from the Authorized Representative (AOR) of your institution. Please provide the AOR's name, title, and email address; this is normally an administrative or financial person that has the authority to sign the proposal on behalf of your organization. <i>Note: The AOR's approval and signature must be completed by noon on the deadline date.</i>

PART THREE: REQUIRED CONTENT

PROJECT NARRATIVE (10 PAGE MAXIMUM)²

Proposal Summary

Provide a brief summary of the project that includes the project title, start and end dates, general rationale, proposed project activities, and anticipated outcomes (250 word maximum). Summaries of the awarded grants will be featured on the ICSMH website.

² The page limitation excludes appendices.

Significance

The purpose of the significance section is to demonstrate the need for this research project. Successful applications will include the following information:

- (i) A rationale for the project which includes a description of relevant literature, the target population needs, current mechanisms for meeting these needs, existing gaps, and how this project will address these gaps specifically for Iowa schools/districts
- (ii) The extent to which the proposed project will result in improved social, emotional, behavioral, or psychological outcomes for the intended population (see general requirements)
- (iii) As relevant, findings from previous/pilot studies related to this proposed project

Research Plan

The purpose of the research plan section is to describe project activities and relevant research components. Successful applications will include the following information:

- a. Research questions
- b. Description of participants
- c. Description of research design
- d. Description of outcomes and measures (e.g., An outcome may be "Improved social skills," the measure of this might include "The Social Skills Improvement System-Rating Scale")
- e. Description of study procedures/activities with accompanying timeline of activities
- f. Description of data analysis procedures
- g. Description of how results will be shared with participants and used to inform sustainable practices
- h. Human Subjects: Applicants are required to indicate whether they plan to conduct research involving human subjects at any time during the proposed project period. The Protection of Human Subjects in Research Attachment is an integral part of the application. ICSMH does not require certification of Institutional Review Board approval with the application. Any application that involves non-exempt human subjects research and is recommended/selected for funding, will require the submission of documentation of human subject approval prior to the release of any funds.

Project Team

This section should include a list of all research partners and their roles, including a description of established partnerships between researchers and schools/districts, if applicable. Descriptions of key personnel (PIs, Co-PIs, and consultants) should highlight relevant expertise and responsibilities on the project. If two or more universities are included, provide a brief explanation of how cross-site collaboration will be executed (e.g., communication strategies, data storage).

Please combine the narrative, references, budget, budget justification, letters of support, CVs as a SINGLE PDF.

PART FOUR: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS POST-AWARD

Performance Progress Reports

Performance Progress Reports are required at 9 and 21 months (i.e., 12 months after the 9-month PPR). The progress reports should document the project team's accomplishments and compliance with terms of the award. The report should restate specific objectives of the Intervention/Intervention research and summarize progress made towards the objectives, any results, deviations from the original project plans, and any future plans.

Final Performance Reports

Final reports are required 3 months following completion of the grant activities (i.e. 30 months) and should include project outcomes in addition to information submitted on the Performance Progress Reports. Describe any deliverables generated as a result of this funded project and describe any presentations or publications that resulted in part from this grant.

Questions?

- *Gerta Bardhoshi, Director of Research and Training (Iowa Center for School Mental Health), gerta.bardhoshi@uiowa.edu or 319-467-4198*
- *Elizabeth A. Constantine, Director of Grant and Research Services Center (College of Education), elizabeth-constantine@uiowa.edu or 319-335-6434*