

Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)
Grant offered through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

TIME SENSITIVE

The Department of Education is seeking three school districts that are interested in partnering on a mental health grant: Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education). The grant is offered through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. It would be a \$1.8 million grant managed by DOE.

- Funding Opportunity Announcement details:
<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-18-006>
- Personnel: Major work personnel are projected to be personnel in the school setting (either current in expanded capacities or new) and/or third-party providers. The grant would pay for at least one school site person in each district.
- Matching funds: No matching funds are required from school districts.
- School districts should demonstrate readiness and willingness to collaboratively work with the state partners on improving or expanding mental health-related interventions and services across school-aged youth and family-serving systems.
- Letters of commitment are required with the application and would be due June 3. See [grant announcement](#) for more information. Contact Jacquie Larson in the Secretary's Office to discuss: (605) 773-4773 or Jacquie.Larson@state.sd.us

The goals of Project AWARE are:

- Increase and improve access to culturally competent and developmentally appropriate school - and community-based mental health services, particularly for children and youth with SED or SMI.
- Develop school-based mental health programs staffed by behavioral health specialists (psychologists, advance practice nurses, counselors, clinical social workers) to screen for, provide early intervention for and to address any ongoing mental health needs of children with symptoms consistent with a mental disorder(s) or SED.
- Conduct outreach and engagement with school-aged youth and their families to increase awareness and identification of mental health issues and to promote positive mental health.
- Connect families, schools, and communities to increase engagement and involvement in planning and implementing school and community programs for school-aged youth.
- Help school-aged youth develop skills that will promote resilience and promote pro-social behaviors; avert development of mental and behavioral health disorders; and prevent youth violence.
- Equip schools with the ability to immediately respond to the needs of youth who may be exhibiting behavioral/psychological signs of a severity indicating the need for clinical intervention.
- Develop an infrastructure that will sustain and expand mental health and behavioral health services and supports for school-aged youth when federal funding ends.