

## **School Mental Health and Support Services Grant Opportunity**

Section 31N (MCL 388.1631N) from Public Act 586 of 2018

### **General Grant Questions**

**Q: I already completed my checklist application. How can I verify that it was received?**

A: The Intermediate School District (ISD) will receive a confirmation email. If you do not, please call 517-241-6270.

**Q: Do all funds need to be expended in one year?**

A: No. This legislation specifically allows for carry over until September 30, 2022. You will be asked to include in your plan how you will expend the funds, and if you expect carry over, what your plan is to spend it.

**Q: Can you give an example of what an implementation plan looks like?**

A: We will provide that to the applying ISDs in April.

**Q: If you submit for all 3 at this time can you later change and only submit only one or two of the 3 applications?**

A: Yes, you can decide not to submit a plan for a section in which you indicated you wanted to participate during the March application.

**Q: Any discussion around sustainability - additional funding for support after the first year?**

A: The legislative process is underway with the Governor's Executive Budget released on 3/5/19. The House and Senate will now release their budgets and then negotiations will begin. Anyone wishing to share their thoughts are encouraged to talk to their state legislator.

**Q: Is there a document that gives more specific information about each section of this grant?**

A: In addition to these materials, we suggest reading the legislative language.

**Q: Is there a local match required from the ISD?**

A: No, not at this time.

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**Q: Can ISDs partner with county mental health organizations as part of their implementation plans?**

A: Yes, that seems like a reasonable suggestion and a great way to have community involvement.

**Q: Can LEA's form consortium groups to develop school level programs? Can ISD's create a consortium to partner together to serve both ISDs?**

A: Yes.

**Q: It will take 2 years to receive Medicaid reimbursement to support these additional positions. Therefore, will legislated funding be provided for the two years?**

A: Currently, we only know we have funding for this fiscal year. We will not know about future fiscal years until final budgets are signed by the Governor.

**Q: Will there be an allowable cost guide provided?**

A: All guidance will be provided in April. Allowable costs must meet the legislative language and intent.

**Q: When might the guidance document be available?**

A: April, 2019.

**Q: Just to clarify, we can apply for ALL 3 portions of the grant. But at a later time, we can only decide to implement or accept one portion?**

A: Yes

**Q: Who makes up the Advisory Council?**

A: Per the legislation, the advisory council shall include representatives of state associations representing school health, school mental health, school counseling, education, health care, and other organizations, and representatives from the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

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**31n(6), \$16.5 million for School Mental Health and Support Services**

**Q: Is there a formula on how funds should be distributed to our local districts?**

A: That is a local ISD decision. We suggest creating a scoring rubric based on the criteria outlined in 31n(7).

**Q: Are ISDs subject to the criteria listed under Sec. 31N (7) as indicated for districts if they have funding not requested from districts?**

A: Yes.

**Q: It was mentioned that this is intended for general education students. I am assuming that students receiving special education are included, since they are considered general education students first.**

A: For 31n(6), the intent is not for special education students but rather for expanding services to general education students. Special education funding is already in place and is specific to special education students. These funds are to expand mental health services for general education students only.

**Q: You realize this is just over a dollar per student in Wayne County. I do not know how a meaningful program can developed. Can the funds be used to develop county wide professional development, coaching, and materials?**

A: The funding provided should be used strategically to meet unmet local needs and fill gaps in mental health services within districts. We don't expect ISDs to evenly distribute this portion of the funding to all districts, but rather develop a process at the ISD level to identify districts in need of onsite mental health services. Each ISD can develop their own process for identifying these schools/districts with the requirements identified in the legislation and how best to provide those districts with onsite mental health services for general education students.

**Q: Are ISDs allowed to retain portions of 31n to provide services from a county level?**

A: That is a local ISD decision. Local ISDs choosing this option must meet the section 7 criteria listed in the legislation.

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**Q: Can the ISD use the money from 31N part 6 to hire/train/support local districts rather than having districts apply for the money and use as individual districts?**

A: That is a local ISD decision. Local ISDs choosing this option must meet the section 7 criteria listed in the legislation.

**Q: The legislation talks about a 20% match being a consideration for LEA's. Is it a REQUIREMENT or just a consideration to funding?**

A: According to the legislation, it is a requirement. We suggest the ISD create a scoring rubric for grant applications from constituent districts that provides the highest score given in the match category to the districts able to meet the 20% match requirement.

**Q: Can the funds be used to hire additional staff? To supplement existing staff?**

A: The intent of this funding is to expand mental health services and supports for general education students. ISD plans should clearly delineate how expansion is occurring in their jurisdictions. If supplementing existing staff, their work must not be supplanted but rather supplemented. For example, if an existing staff person only works half time, these funds could be used to add hours to their contract to make them full time with the additional hours being focused on general education students.

**Q: Could an ISD push the \$\$ out through human capital, would this be allowable for 31n?**

A: If "human capital" refers to local staffing, yes. That is a local ISD decision. Local ISDs choosing this option must meet the section 7 criteria listed in the legislation.

**Q: Are LEA's limited to how much they can ask the ISD for?**

A: That is a local ISD decision.

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**Q: My districts were hoping to use the funding in 31n to make a part time person full time. This is not supplanting, if they have never been full time. What I just heard you to say was that it would have to be a new hire. Did I hear that correctly? Why wouldn't we be able to expand the services of a person already in the district vs. hiring another person.**

A: Yes. If supplementing existing staff, their work must not be supplanted but rather supplemented. For example, if an existing staff person only works half time, these funds could be used to add hours to their contract to make them full time with the additional hours being focused on general education students.

**Q: Is there any foreseeable way for an ISD to use these grant monies without a local district making a 20% match?**

A: According to the legislation, it is a requirement. We suggest the ISD create a scoring rubric for grant applications from constituent districts that provides the highest score given in the match category to the districts able to meet the 20% match requirement.

**Q: Part 7 states in the criteria that "The district will XXX". If the ISD retains the funds and doesn't distribute funds to any districts, does that mean we don't have the same requirements listed in part 7 since it says "districts" and not "ISDs"?**

A: No. If ISDs choose to retain the funds then the ISD is subject to the requirements set forth in part 7 of the legislation.

**Q: If Kent ISD were to disperse 31n to districts instead of retaining funds to provide global support, we would only be able to provide approx. \$7,000 per district. This is not enough to make an impact at an LEA level. Is it the intent to then award grant competitively? (part of our inquiry to retain funds at a county level) Difficult for large ISDs (Kent).**

A: We don't expect ISDs to evenly distribute this portion of the funding to all districts at the same time, but rather develop a process at the ISD level to identify districts in need of onsite mental health services. Each ISD can develop their own process for identifying these schools/districts. The implementation guidance will also have more detail on this component of the funding.

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**Q: If none of the districts apply it states in part 6 we can access the funds, so want to make sure we don't have the same criteria since it says "districts" not "ISDs".**

A: According to the legislation, it is a requirement for the criteria in part 7 to be met for districts receiving services from part 6.

**Q: What does the ISD do if the local districts do not want the funds or services due to the 20% match?**

A: An ISD cannot force a district to participate if they are identified as high need but do not wish to apply for the services due to the 20% match.

**Q: Is there money that could be used for preschool needs in 31n?**

A: We understand that a (general education) preschool student co-located within a building with K-12 students identified as needing school mental health services should not be excluded from the services. It is not the intent of the funding to provide services to off-site child care centers.

**Q: May an ISD provide mental health and support services via the classroom teachers through training and sub stipends?**

A: Not through the \$16.5M in 31n(6) but through the \$8M in 31n(12).

**Q: Are out-of-county school of choice students exempt from receiving any services?**

A: No so long as they are enrolled and attending a school within the jurisdiction of the ISD.

## **School Mental Health and Support Services Grant Opportunity**

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31n(10), \$500,000 for program administration

**Q: Can you please tell me who would be responsible for the Medicaid billing? Would that be the ISD or the contract mental health agency?**

A: We anticipate ISDs will be responsible for Medicaid billing similar to school-based services, although ultimately this is a local ISD decision.

**Q: What certification do the providers need in order to bill Medicaid if a local district applies to the ISD for funds?**

A: The requirements are outlined in section 7 of the legislation and further guidance will be provided in April.

**Q: Will students need to have prescriptions or letters from physicians stating the mental health services are required in order to bill Medicaid?**

A: We will check with Medicaid and get further guidance out to everyone in April.

## **School Mental Health and Support Services Grant Opportunity**

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**31n(12), \$8 million for Behavioral Health Team Pilot program**

**Q: Is there an ISD or district that has a model like this or is already doing this work?**

A: That is an excellent question. We will contact those we know of and if we find one willing to allow us to share what they are doing, we will include it in the information with the plan requirements. If you know of one, please let us know.

**Q: Is there a list of researched based practices that schools can review to consider implementing?**

A: Yes, this will be included when we send the implementation guidance.

**Q: 31n(12) can we apply to pay teachers for training? Can we pay stipends to teachers to be on the behavioral assessment team? Is this one-time money?**

A: Yes. We suggest including this in your plans you will submit in May. Currently, we only know we have funding for this fiscal year. We will not know about future fiscal years until final budgets are signed by the Governor.

**Q: For 31n(12) can we use funds to train teachers/staff to support student mental health in the classroom?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Is the state going to provide a standard assessment tool for the Behavioral Health Assessment Team? Or a standard training?**

A: We may provide suggestions but until we see the implementation plans submitted by ISDs, we will not know what implementation choices ISDs will be making to provide such assistance.

**Q: Will some of the funding in the grant be allowed to cover sub cost for a local district?**

A: That is a local ISD decision.

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**Q: Can 31n funds be used to pay teachers a stipend if training occurs in the summer?**

A: That is a local ISD decision.

**Q: Can we use these grant funds to coincide with our county-wide work with PBIS? Will this be one of the models for providing services?**

A: It would make sense to use these funds to compliment work already underway in the district/county. PBIS isn't necessarily a service delivery model, it is a framework. The menu of options will be trainings that will be provided will be Training of Trainers (TOT) programming to be offered as trainings to district staff including addressing tier 2 and tier 3 needs within your multi-tier system of supports approach.

**Q: Can the grant funds for Behavioral Health Teams be used to support both general education and special education students?**

A: Yes

**Q: May an ISD provide mental health and support services via the classroom teachers through training and sub stipends?**

A: Not through the \$16.5M in 31n(6) but through the \$8M in 31n(12).

**Q: Are they nationally recognized trainings? Do you know if there will be an opportunity to bring in trainers at a reduced rate since so many regions will be needing trainings for trainers? Will MDE organize any regional/statewide trainings or will the ISDs be doing all of the scheduling and setting up?**

A: At this time, we do not know what all ISDs will include in their implementation plans. Once we see plans and see trends, we will do our best to provide coordination assistance.