

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

#### **POLICYMAKER PARTNERSHIP**

#### **STATE PLANNING GRANTS**

#### *MENTAL HEALTH, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH: TOWARD A SHARED AGENDA*

#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP): 2002**

The following Request for Proposals is administered through the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) in conjunction with the National Association of State Directors of Special Education – Policymaker Partnership (NASDSE/PMP).

#### **Background**

In late summer 2000, discussions began between the Policymaker Partnership at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (PMP/NASDSE) and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) on how the two entities could collaborate to promote closer working relations between state mental health and education agencies, schools and family organizations on behalf of children. NASMHPD and PMP/NASDSE decided that the first step in this project would be to develop a concept paper for policymakers at the state and local levels to ground initiatives to address the social-emotional and mental health needs of all children.

A work group was formed of over forty (40) experts from mental health, education and family support and advocacy groups to advise in the development of the concept paper. Work group members participated in monthly conference calls and held two face-to-face meetings to provide guidance and advice. They also reviewed various drafts of the document.

In October 2001, the concept paper, *Mental Health, Schools And Families Working Together For All Children And Youth: Toward A Shared Agenda* was submitted to NASMHPD and PMP/NASDSE for endorsement and dissemination. After final approval by the U.S. Department of Education/ Office of Special Education Programs, the paper was printed and distributed to state commissioners of mental health, state commissioners of education, state directors of mental health and state directors of special education, and family organizations in May 2002.

These grants to states are a direct follow-up to the development and dissemination of the concept paper. NASMHPD and NASDSE want to know how the ideas in the paper can be transformed into state and local action that involves the stakeholders. States will receive support to meaningfully engage mental health, education and family organizations in moving toward a shared agenda for children's mental health.

### **Grant Award**

NASMHPD/PMP will award a \$10,000 children's mental health planning grant to each of five states to enhance the state's ability to build collaboration across mental health, education and family serving organizations in developing a shared agenda for children's mental health. The goal is to involve, at a minimum, education, mental health and family organizations in:

- 1) a joint discussion of the concept paper and its implications;
- 2) a joint process that clarifies and develops consensus about how the paper's aims and recommendations should be adapted (with additions, modifications, deletions) for use in the state; and
- 3) a joint process that leads to development and submission to the state director for children's mental health and the state director of special education of state specific opportunities for implementing the recommendations.

This planning grant for developing a shared agenda for children's mental health supports cross stakeholder dialogue to:

- understand the interests of each stakeholder group;
- articulate gaps and disconnects across systems;
- identify redundancies;
- describe opportunities and resources;
- build a commitment to address barriers; and
- initiate cross stakeholder involvement in action initiatives that are responsive to identified issues.

This grant offers states the opportunity to forge new partnerships and expand existing partnerships with new stakeholders. Applications must be collaboratively submitted by the head of the state's children's mental health program (Children, Youth and Family Director in the mental health agency) and the director of special education in the State education agency. Applications must be approved by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of mental health. The fiscal agent will be the state mental health authority.

### **Section III. Purpose**

Awarded funds will support activities that engage stakeholders in dialogue, strategic thinking and action planning. The concept paper, *Mental Health, Schools And Families Working Together For All Children And Youth: Toward A Shared Agenda*, is expected to ground the discussion and provide initial recommendations for consideration by stakeholders.

State agencies are expected to submit a collaborative application that articulates the intent to:

1. Identify and invite stakeholder groups into a dialogue around children's mental health;
2. Hold a series of meetings that identify stakeholder interests;
3. Identify collaborative near-term actions that have support from stakeholders and that will improve the child-serving system;
4. Identify the resources and opportunities that are available across systems to address near-term strategies;
5. Identify collaborative long-term actions that have support from stakeholders and that will improve the child serving system(s);
6. Identify the resources that will need to be developed over the long-term to meet stakeholder needs;
7. Articulate a plan for continued cross- stakeholder involvement in efforts to improve the children's mental health system;
8. Commit to working with NASDSE and NASMHPD on disseminating process and outcomes of the cross-stakeholder initiatives. NASDSE and NASMHPD intend to maintain communication across the five states that are selected so that they may share their learnings with each other and with other states.
9. Commit to working with NASMHPD and NASDSE to build a shared agenda for children's mental health.

#### **Application Requirements/Evaluation Criteria.**

Applications should include the following information:

- 1) A rationale for entering into this cross-stakeholder initiative around children's mental health (10 points);

- 2) A description of the factors within the state that heighten the importance of developing a shared agenda for children's mental health (20 points);
- 3) An outline of a tentative plan to engage the stakeholders (10 points);
- \*\* 4) A list of proposed activities that will be reviewed and approved by the stakeholders, if funded (10 points);
- 5) A description of the current issues within the state that will be informed by cross-stakeholder discussion (20 points);
- \*\* 6) An explanation of how cross-stakeholder discussion will support action initiatives within the state to make near-term changes and frame long-term improvement (20 points);
- 7) A description of the list of stakeholders. At a minimum, the list must include state and local mental health representatives, state and local education representatives, family serving organizations in the education and mental health systems, family members, advocates, and students (10 points); and
- 8) A statement of intent to share process, strategies and outcomes with other states (REQUIRED).

**\*\* NOTE: In items 4 and 6 above, additional consideration will be given to applications using activities under this children's mental health planning grant as preparation for a state policy initiative application to the *Policy Academy on Developing Systems of Care for Children with Mental Health Needs and their Families*, July 2003.**

**The total application narrative should not exceed 10 double-spaced pages.**

**The application must be submitted no later than September 23, 2002:**

- 1) Online. See the website: XXX (PMP website is no longer active as of 2005)  
Application with required signatures must be submitted in hard copy after online submission.
- 2) By email to: XXXX  
Application with required signatures must be submitted in hard copy after email submission.
- 3) By PMP/NASDSE Fax : 703-519-3808  
Attention: Diane Oglesby
- 4) By mail:  
Shared Agenda  
C/O Diane Oglesby  
PMP /NASDSE  
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 320  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Awards will be issued by **October 15, 2002** to five states. If you have any questions about the grant process, please do not hesitate to contact Diane Oglesby at 703/ 519-3800 x 318; e-mail: [diane@nasdse.org](mailto:diane@nasdse.org).

## **Section V. Budget**

The application should provide a budget to support proposed grant activities. The grant period is from October 15, 2002 to September 30, 2003. The grant budget amount is \$10,000.00. Salary and benefits are not a fundable expense under this children's mental health planning grant. Grant applications should include the following:

Direct Costs:

Travel

Activity expenses (e.g., meeting costs, AV, room rental, speakers)

Project Materials

Other:

Indirect Costs:

**TOTAL COST OF ACTIVITY:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### [Link To Related Information](#)

To read about the activities of the six States that received planning grants, see:

The WHOLE Story – Education, Mental Health, and Family Organizations:  
A State-Based Community of Practice, 2002-2004  
<http://www.ideapartnership.org/partnership2a.cfm?initiativeid=4>

CITATION: IDEA Policymaker Partnership. (2002). *Request for proposals – State planning grants, Mental health, schools, and families working together for all children and youth*. Alexandria, VA: National Association of State Directors of Special Education. Retrieved from [ideainfo.org](http://ideainfo.org)