

September 2014

FUNDING SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SCHOOL DISCIPLINE REFORM

Federal funding and private philanthropic funding is available to support school district efforts to improve school climate and reform discipline policy and practice. Stakeholders may find the funding sources below helpful in their efforts to improve the educational experience of their students.

Dedicated Federal Grants

Department of Education

- **School Climate Transformation Grant—Local Educational Agency Grants Program**
The School Climate Transformation Grant—Local Educational Agency Program provides competitive grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop, enhance, or expand systems of support for, and technical assistance to, schools implementing an evidence-based multi-tiered behavioral framework for improving behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for all students.
- **Project Prevent Grant Program**
This program provides funding to LEAs to increase their capacity both to identify, assess, and serve students exposed to pervasive violence, helping to ensure that affected students are offered mental health services for trauma or anxiety; support conflict resolution programs; and implement other school-based violence prevention strategies in order to reduce the likelihood that these students will later commit violent acts.
- **Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program**
This grant provides funds for districts to establish or expand school counseling programs, including hiring school counselors and school psychologists. This year, there was a competitive preference for applications that wanted to implement services to improve school climate, safety and mental health and or/ school safety and discipline.

Department of Justice: National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

- **Developing Knowledge about What Works to Make Schools Safe**
NIJ will provide funding to LEAs, interested in testing initiatives that enhance school safety. The initiatives may include programs, policies, or practices (such as the hiring of law enforcement personnel and mental health providers) that may have the potential to enhance school safety and school climate.

Department of Health and Human Services: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- **"Now is the Time" Project AWARE Local Educational Agency Grants (NITT-AWARE-LEA)**
The purpose of this program is to assist local educational agencies to begin to support the training of school personnel and other adults who interact with youth in both school settings and communities to detect and respond to mental illness in children and youth, including how to encourage adolescents and their families experiencing these problems to seek treatment.

National Foundations

- **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**
The Kellogg Foundation promotes racial healing while addressing structural racism. Seeking to inform and change hearts, minds and the deeply-held, often unconscious biases that are frequently at the core of structural racism. The inequities faced by children of color – for example, harsher juvenile sentences in the court systems – are clear. The Foundation makes grants to address the interrelated nature of racial healing and racial equity. In 2010, the foundation launched America Healing, an initiative designed to ensure that all children in the U.S. have an equitable and promising future.
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Forward Promise Initiative**
Through the Forward Promise Community Partnership grants, RWJF is investing in coordinated community solutions making a collective impact in the health and success of middle and high school-aged young men and boys of color. We are focusing on interventions such as mentorship, job training, and school programs that are proven through research to make a difference for young people, their families and their communities.

Funding That May be Deployed for School Discipline Reform

- **Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Part A**
Funds are used for programs, activities, and strategies to support students not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, state standards. LEAs can use funds for school-wide programs that support at-risk students, including mentoring, counseling, pupil services, and academic programming. Title I funds have been successfully deployed to implement PBIS and Restorative Justice programs. For an example, see [Vallejo Unified School District](#).
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
A portion of the total federal allocation may be reserved for discretionary purposes. Additionally, up to 15% of IDEA special education funds may also be used to support early intervention services for low-achieving and at-risk students. Early intervention services, as defined in IDEA regulations, are services to students who need increased academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. PBIS, RTI models could be explored using this funding.
- **School Improvement Grants**
LEA sub-grantees are those with the greatest need and the strongest commitment to providing adequate resources for substantially raising students’ achievement in the lowest-performing schools. Lowest-performing schools can use SIG funds to create safe and supportive school environments, to serve the social-emotional and health needs of students, and to improve family and community engagement, including creating community-oriented schools.