



Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services

For more information and to submit applications:

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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2022

**Delaware Department of Education
Opportunity Funding Form
2021-2022 School Year**

Application deadline: Friday, July 30, 2021

Purpose: The Opportunity Funding directed to mental health services provides \$5.0 million in FY20, \$2.5 million in HB 225 (Annual Appropriations Act) and \$2.5 million authorized in HB 226 (One-Time Supplemental). With a total supplemental amount of \$7.5 million over three years, the total amount will be \$15 million *contingent on future appropriations*. The Opportunity Fund is to provide additional funding for English Learner (EL) and low-income students.

For FY21, \$2.5 million is appropriated through HB 240 (Annual Appropriations Act). The guiding language regarding these funds and eligibility was amended through HB260 (Grants- In-Aid Act). The \$2.5 million allocated is supplemented with the \$2.5 million from HB 226 as referenced above. A total of \$5 million is appropriated for FY21.

For FY22, \$5.5 million is appropriated through HB 250 (Annual Appropriations Act). The \$5.5 million allocated is supplemented with the \$2.5 million as referenced above. A total of \$8 million is appropriated for FY22.

For FY22, these funds are apportioned and allocated to schools meeting criteria based on the prior year unit count: 1) a grade configuration containing K through 4th grade and (2) greater than or equal to 30% percent low-income and/or greater than or equal to 10% English Learner enrollment. There are schools that have been grandfathered because of meeting the threshold in FY21 and not meeting in FY22. This is noted.

This funding shall be used by school districts and charter schools for *mental health services* in the form of school counselors, school social workers or licensed clinical social workers, school psychologists, and/or for additional reading supports for grades K-5. Services may include the employment of staff, where such funding may be used to cover 100 percent of personnel costs on a 10 to 12-month basis and/or contracted services.

Allocation Method: Amounts vary per school and that amount is indicated below. Each LEA has already received the first half of the funding; the second amount will be released upon receipt and approval of this application.

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Christina School District / Smith (Jennie E.) Elementary School
ADDRESS: 142 Brennen Drive, Newark, DE 19713
CONTACT NAME: Hope Moffett
CONTACT PHONE: 302-552-2702
CONTACT EMAIL: hope.moffett@christina.k12.de.us
ALLOCATION AMOUNT: \$90,406

Questions:

1. What mental health needs of your identified low-income and English learner students will you be addressing through these mental health services funds? *(Please indicate N/A if these funds are solely being used for reading supports for the two subgroups – EL and low-income.)*

In an environment with elevated levels of unemployment, uncertainty, and health risk, the strain and stress of the situation on low income and English learner students is negatively impacting their mental health and increasing the demand for social services.

With a June 2021 unemployment rate in New Castle County that is 40% higher than the February 2020 unemployment rate (4.2% to 5.9%) and with expanded unemployment benefits and the eviction moratorium ending, Low-income families are facing ongoing financial stress. This affects students' material and emotional well-being and increases the need for social work that connects students and families to community services and resources.

During the pandemic, our low income and EL students have not been able to fully access school supports. The result is a large population of low income and EL students dealing with trauma.

Signs of these mental health needs show up in erratic attendance patterns, affecting both those who resumed hybrid learning last year and those who remained virtual only through the end of the year. Even after Christina schools reopened in January 2021, 22% of EL students remained fully remote and an additional 33% of EL students only received in person services and instruction 2 days a week. English Learners have had to navigate language isolation in addition to the broader social isolation resulting from pandemic related health and wellness measures.

Frequently disciplined low income and EL students are also another sign that student mental health needs are not being met. While school climate data from the most recent year is mixed due to low levels of in-person attendance, historical data indicates that this remains an ongoing area of need.

Our schools are prioritizing connections before content to ensure that students feel physically, mentally, and emotionally safe as we begin the school year with full in-person instruction and services. Our objective in providing a Social worker is to provide a system of support for our EL and low-income students, with an emphasis on building resilience, conflict resolution, agency, self-awareness, and self-regulation and with the intent of connecting the EL and low-income students and families with the supports necessary to thrive academically and emotionally.

2. What kind of mental health services personnel are you hiring or contracting (school counselor, school social worker, licensed clinical social worker or school psychologist)?

Opportunity funding for mental health services will allow us to hire a full-time Social Worker to support EL and low-income students at Smith. Bridging school to home and community, the school social worker will address student mental health needs, provide positive behavioral support, and connect students and families to resources within the district and outside of it.

In the event that the district cannot fill a full-time social worker posting, the district will contract with approved vendors to provide social worker services in the school.

In order to fully fund a full-time social worker position for SY22, the district will use matching funds and carryover from SY21. The position will be sustainable.

3. Are you using these funds for reading supports for your identified low-income and English learner students in addition to mental health services or in lieu of mental health services? If so, what types of supports/services will be provided?

N/A

4. How will you know if these services or supports are effective?

Adding a school social worker will help address the root causes of chronic absenteeism and student behavioral issues affecting our EL and low-income students. While we would also expect that school social work will increase academic achievement, of EL and low-income students are well, attendance and discipline metrics are leading indicators of success as improvements in these areas will address two key root causes of learning gaps. Below is historical data that will serve as a baseline for measuring effectiveness:

Attendance

SY21 Percent of Students with >90% Attendance (student-level data):
Direct Cert Eligibility(Low-Income)- 76%
English Learner- 90%

Exclusionary Discipline

Disciplinary Data from SY20 and SY21 is an aberration from historical patterns due to the remote option. Comparison data from SY19 will be used as the baseline.

SY19 Exclusionary Discipline Count of Incidents resulting in:
ISS- 47
OSS- 16

In addition, we will collect qualitative and quantitative data from the contracted school social workers to capture the reach of their services and the efficacy of their interventions.

5. Is this money is being used to contract services?

YES NO

6. Please complete the State Funds Budget Form and State Budget Summary Form (attached).

Assurances and signatures:

As the chief school officer of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I am also authorized to obligate the district or charter school to conduct any activity approved under this form in accordance with all applicable state requirements, including statutory and regulatory requirements, and program specific requirements. The information contained in it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

Chief School Officer (printed name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the business manager of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I have read this form and reviewed the financial information contained in this form. The information contained in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have reviewed and approve the submission of the budgetary information for this form. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

Business manager (printed name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing this form, I am approving the plan submitted by the district or charter.

Secretary of Education/Designee (printed name): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Live signature on file at DOE.



State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: FY22 Oppt Fund MH/Rdg
 Project Title: Smith Opp Fund MH/Rdg
 LEA/Agency: Christina School District

Project Start Date: 7/1/2021
 Project End Date: 6/30/2023

Expense Types and Account Codes: Salaries (5100) and Other Employee Costs (5120)						
Employee Name	Title	FTE Percentage		State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
PROFESSIONAL:				\$	\$	\$
TBD	Social Worker	100%		\$58,092.35	\$10,267.65	\$68,360.00
				Professional Subtotal	\$58,092.35	\$10,267.65
SUBSTITUTES:				\$	\$	\$
				Substitutes Subtotal		
SUPPORT STAFF:				\$	\$	\$
				Support Staff Subtotal		
STUDENTS:				\$	\$	\$
				Students Subtotal		
SALARY TOTAL:				\$58,092.35	\$10,267.65	\$68,360.00
OTHER EMPLOYEE COSTS:				\$	\$	\$
FICA		6.20%		\$3,601.73	\$636.59	\$4,238.32
Medicare		1.45%		\$842.34	\$148.88	\$991.22
Pension		23.80%		\$13,825.98	\$2,443.70	\$16,269.68
Workman's Comp		1.55%		\$900.43	\$159.15	\$1,059.58
Unemployment Insurance		0.11%		\$63.90	\$11.29	\$75.20
		33.11%				
FY 22 Health Insurance/Other Non-taxed Benefits				\$15,391.00	\$2,311.73	\$15,391.00
OEC TOTAL:				\$32,313.65	\$5,711.35	\$38,025.00
SALARY AND OEC TOTAL:				\$90,406.00	\$15,979.00	\$106,385.00



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Expense Types and Account Codes: Travel (5400)					
Destination	Purpose	# of Travelers	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS					

Expense Types and Account Codes: Contractual Services (5500)				
Vendor Name	Service Provided	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
		\$	\$	\$
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES COSTS				

Expense Types and Account Codes: Supplies and Materials (5600)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS					



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Expense Types and Account Codes: Capital Outlay (5700)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
<u>Replacement Equipment</u>			\$	\$	\$
<u>New Equipment</u>					
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS					

GRAND TOTAL	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
	\$90,406.00	\$15,979.00	\$106,385.00



**STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUDGET SUMMARY OF STATE FUNDS**

LEA/Agency Name: Christina School District Project Title: Smith Opp Fund MH/RdG
 State Subgrant Title: FY22 Oppt Fund MH/RdG

<i>Account Code</i>	<i>5100</i>	<i>5120</i>	<i>5400</i>	<i>5500</i>	<i>5600</i>	<i>5700</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Account Code Name</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>OEC's</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Contracted Services</i>	<i>Supplies & Materials</i>	<i>Capital Outlay</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<i>Total Budget</i>	\$58,092.35	\$32,313.65					\$90,406.00

Completed By: Hope Moffett Date: 8/10/2021

Chief Financial Officer or Business Manager: Chuck Longfellow Date: 8/10/2021

