



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Room 150, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7988

February 8, 2008

TO: COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS
COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CHILDREN'S COORDINATORS
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: EARLY MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE: EMHI-2008

REFERENCE: Welfare and Institutions Code, Division 4, Part 4 (commencing with Section 4370)

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) invites Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to apply for funding through the Early Mental Health Initiative (EMHI). The requirements of EMHI are outlined in Chapter 757, Statutes of 1991 (Assembly Bill 1650), the School-Based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services for Children Act. Funding is available through the EMHI Request for Application (RFA) process to implement early mental health intervention and prevention services that target students in kindergarten through third grade who attend a publicly funded elementary school or state special school.

This Request for Application (RFA) is being issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 4380 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. It is anticipated that approximately \$3.4 million will be available to fund new EMHI programs in FY 2008-09. However, the amount, if any, available for this purpose shall not be appropriated until the approval of the California State Budget for FY 2008-09. Any awards from this RFA are contingent on the passage of the State Budget with specific inclusion of funds for new EMHI programs. Applicants should realize that until the approval of a FY 2008-09 California State Budget that includes the \$3.4 million for new EMHI programs, there is no guarantee of funding availability for their application even if they have a fundable score in the RFA process. Eligible applicants are LEAs, which are defined as publicly funded county offices of education (COE), school districts, and State Special Schools. LEAs are required to develop applications and provide services in cooperation with the local mental health programs and/or private non-profit mental health agencies.

The EMHI provides for a three-year grant with the state share of funding not to exceed 50 percent (50%) of the total program cost. LEAs and/or local non-profit mental health agencies are required to match the state funding by providing at least 50 percent (50%) of the total program cost.

No more than four new school sites may be funded per school district except in large districts that have been regionalized administratively. Regionalized districts must not exceed a maximum of four applications and a combined total of nine school sites per school district. No more than four new school sites per district region will be funded each year.

Small school districts in the same counties are encouraged to pool resources and expertise to promote economy of scale and avoid duplication of efforts. Up to three school districts may submit a joint application that includes no more than five school sites. The COE may submit a consortium application that is limited to no more than five school districts and seven school sites. The consortium grant recipient will be the COE who may designate one of the participating school districts to assume fiscal and administrative responsibility for the consortium. The maximum amount of state funding available each fiscal year is \$42,000 for each school site.

Priority will be given to applications that best meet the requirements of the RFA at the lowest cost per student to receive services. All applications must demonstrate that the proposed services are research-based and must be based on adoption of models that have been shown to be effective and that meet the needs of culturally and ethnically diverse communities.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2008. The online RFA includes a timeline for the RFA process as well as a projected date for the awarding of grants to successful applicants.

The RFA is available online at

http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Children_and_Youth/EMHI.asp .

Information meeting details will be available at the same web address. The Questions and Answers referred to in the RFA will be posted at this web address by April 18, 2008.

If you have any questions regarding the RFA, need additional information about EMHI, or wish to have a RFA mailed to you, please contact the DMH, EMHI staff at (916) 653-7988.

In addition to this funding opportunity, DMH is currently encouraging LEAs to participate in their local planning process for the use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding. MHSA funding is another possible funding source for school-age children's programs and interventions. Your local MHSA planning process is being conducted by your County Mental Health Department. You can find the contact person at this web address:

http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/docs/MHSACoCoordContacts_Revised_10-18-07.pdf .

Sincerely,

ELAINE BUSH
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Superintendent of Public Instruction