



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) 651-0689

March 16, 2009

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-2009 FUNDING

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). 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.

The goal of EMHI is to enhance the social and emotional development of young students with mild to moderate school adjustment disorders to increase the likelihood that they will succeed in school, increase their personal competencies related to life success, and decrease the need for more intensive and costly services as they grow older. The EMHI program has been independently evaluated for more than a decade. Students using EMHI services have repeatedly shown increased positive social competencies and school adjustment as a result of the program. These positive changes have continued beyond their program involvement.

There is currently \$4.6 million available to fund new EMHI programs in the FY 2009-10 California State Budget. Applicants should realize that it is possible that this amount could be modified. Any modification of the California State Budget could impact the availability of this funding and affect how many, if any, awards are given. 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 RFA, with timelines and projected award dates, is available online at http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Children_and_Youth/EMHI.asp
The EMHI-2009 RFA requirements and procedures for application submission will be reviewed during two information meetings. Information meetings are tentatively scheduled for

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April 13, 2009 in Sacramento and April 15, 2009 in Ontario. Please check the website or call the EMHI staff at (916) 651-0689 for specific times, locations and updates concerning the information meetings. The deadline for receipt of applications is May 12, 2009, by 5:00 p.m.

No more than four (4) new school sites may be funded per school district each year except in large districts that have been regionalized administratively. The maximum amount of state funding available each fiscal year is \$42,000 for each school site. Joint applications between school districts, consortium applications by the County Office of Education, and regionalized school district applications may also be submitted. These applications allow a greater number of school sites to be included in the grant. Please consult the RFA for the specific requirements for these types of applications.

The EMHI provides for a three-year grant with the state share of funding not to exceed 50 percent 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 of the total program cost. In-kind match may be used by LEAs to meet this requirement as outlined in the RFA.

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) 651-0689.

Sincerely,

DENISE M. AREND
Deputy Director
Community Services

cc: Superintendent of Public Instruction