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MHTTC

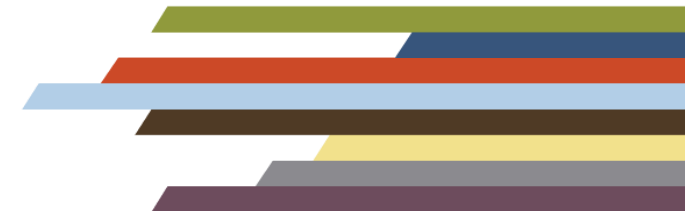
Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Financing Opportunities to Boost Mental Health Services in Schools in 2023: The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

March 22, 2023

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



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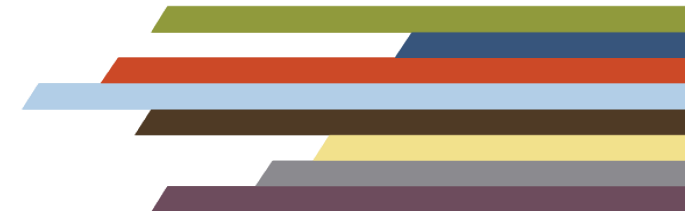
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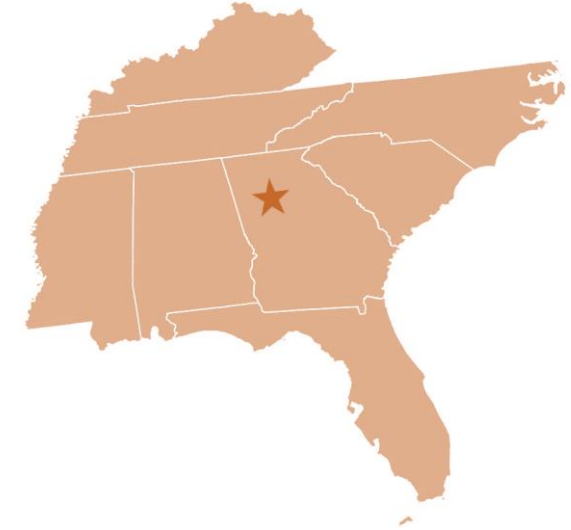
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About the Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC)

The Southeast MHTTC is located at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University.

Serve states in HHS Region IV: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.



Our Mission: To promote the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based mental health services in the Southeastern United States.

Our Vision: Widespread access to evidence-based mental health services for those in need.



Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
Alabama | Florida | Georgia | Kentucky | Mississippi | North Carolina | South Carolina | Tennessee



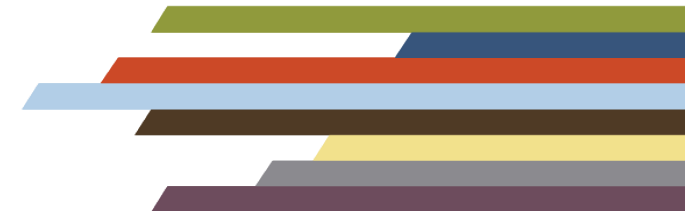
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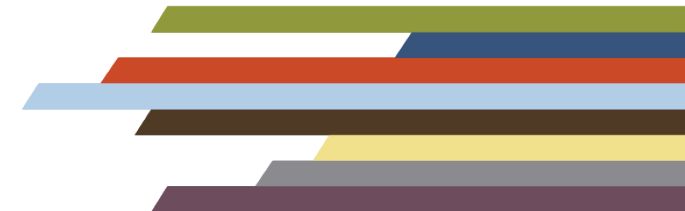
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thoughts as this is a very important part of our funding.

We appreciate your feedback!



Presenters



Orla Kennedy

Senior Policy Analyst
Community Catalyst



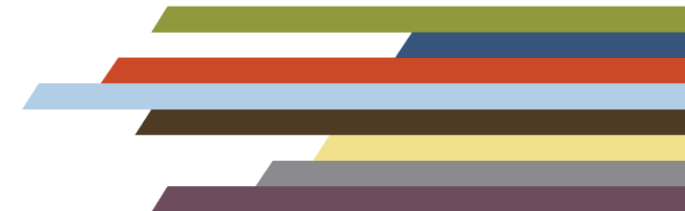
Lena O'Rourke

On behalf of Healthy Schools
Campaign;
Founder and
Principal, O'Rourke Health
Policy Strategies



Dusan Stojicic

Associate Director
Community Catalyst



Learning Objectives

1

Identify key federal opportunities from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act for financing school-based mental health and substance use programs for young people

2

Identify strategies for engaging leaders at the school, district, and state levels to effectively leverage these financing opportunities

3

Identify ways to meaningfully engage youth when leveraging these federal financing channels to improve school-based health services

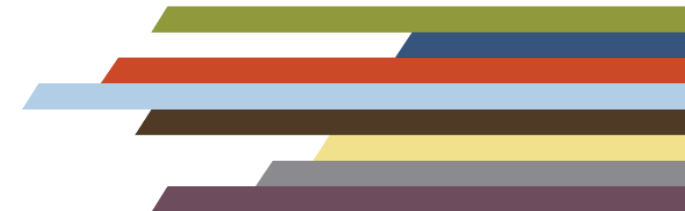


National non-profit health advocacy organization that **builds community leadership** to improve the health system.



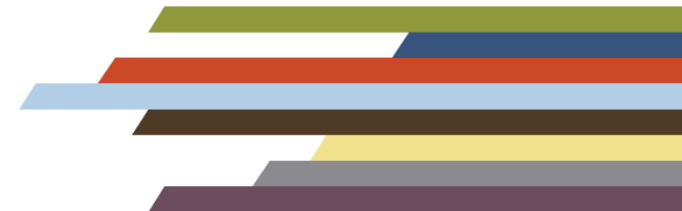
Program on Substance Use Disorders and Justice Involved Populations:

Drawing on insights from **people with lived experience** and working side-by-side with state and community-based organizations and alliances **we are building community power** that reorients society's misguided approach to mental health and substance use disorders through **policies and practices that center race equity and justice**, and ensure everyone gets the services they need to live healthier lives.



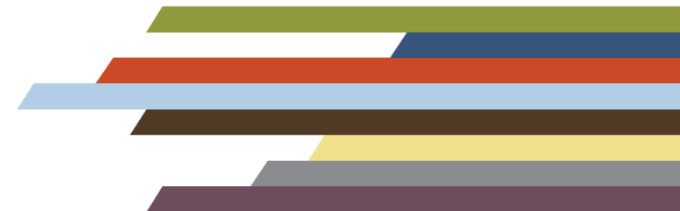
Today's Discussion:

**Financing Opportunities to Boost Mental Health Services in Schools in 2023:
The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act**



Part 1:

Background



Part 1 | Background

The problem:

- ❑ Continue to face a [youth mental health and substance use crisis](#); youth [overdose deaths](#) rising faster than the adult population
- ❑ Suicide is [among the top three](#) leading causes of death for youth and adolescents age 10-24
- ❑ Just [20 percent](#) of children with behavioral health needs are able to get care from a mental health provider.
- ❑ COVID is [increasing the need](#), affecting LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth most.

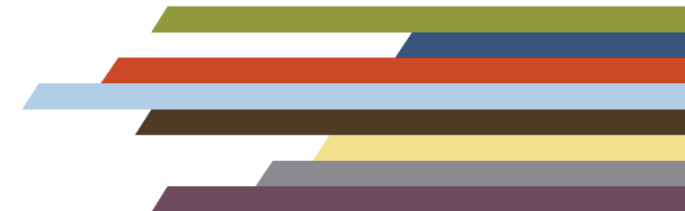
LGBTQ+ - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), and others.

BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, and people of color

Part 1 | Background

What can we do? As you all know:

- ❑ Adolescence is a critical time for preventing and treating [mental illness](#) and [substance use disorders](#).
- ❑ Meet young people where they are. Youth are [more likely](#) to access services and complete treatment in schools.

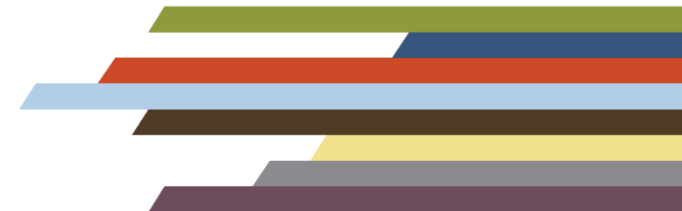


Part 1 | Background (cont.)

Federal Context re: School Medicaid

In the past:

- ❑ Limited focus on Medicaid covering school health care services
- ❑ 2014: Progress with “Free Care Rule Reversal”



Part 1 | Background (cont.)

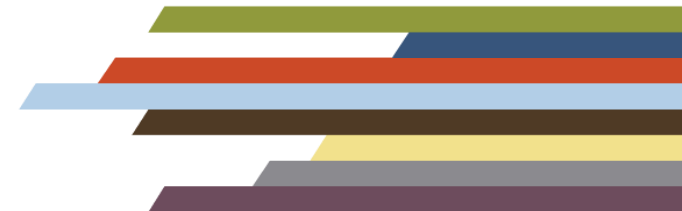
Now:

- ❑ **Many states and LEAs could do more** to leverage federal options to bill Medicaid for all eligible school health services provided to Medicaid-enrolled students. More states can also leverage ESSER and Project AWARE funds to expand mental and behavioral health services (source: [NASBE](#)).
- ❑ **This misses a huge opportunity to make mental health services in schools sustainable and get all Medicaid enrolled students the care they need when they need it.**

****Unprecedented federal attention to school Mental Health in Bipartisan Safer Communities Act****

Part 2:

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)



Next round fall 2023

What resources are coming to support school mental health?

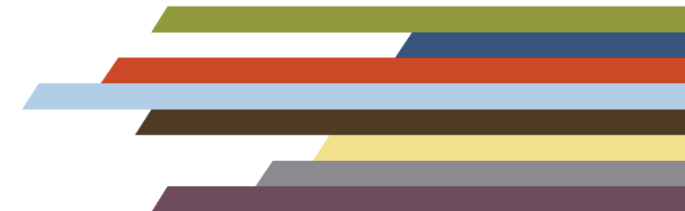
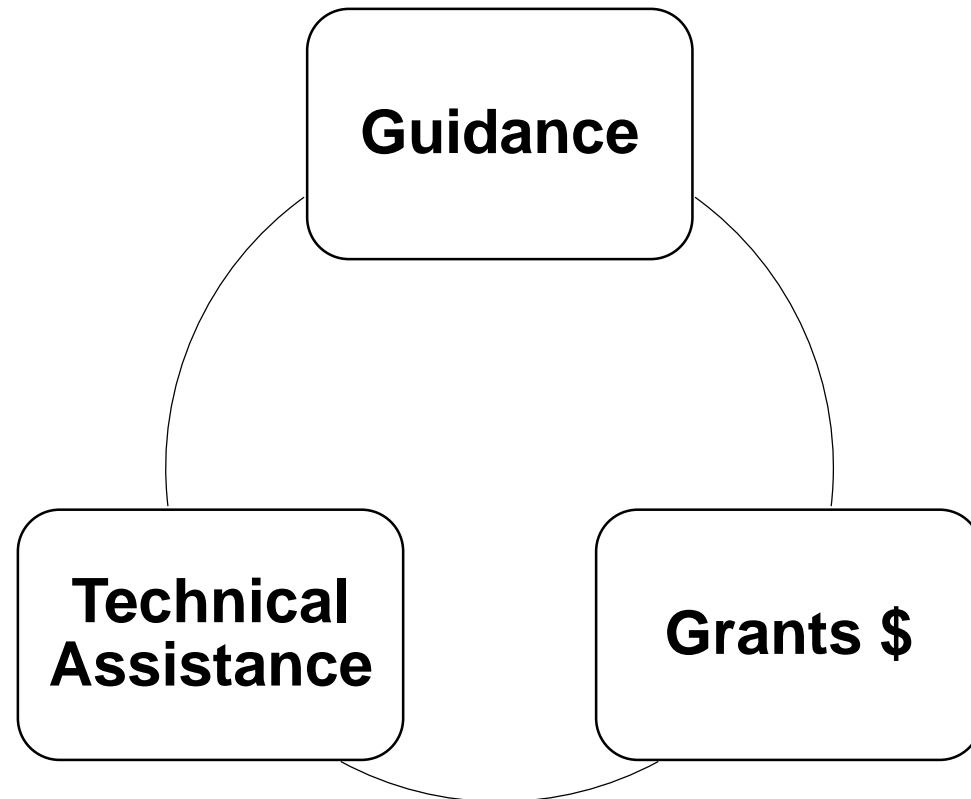
| School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) Grant Program | Mental Health Service Professional (MHSP) Demonstration Grant Program |
|---|---|
| Purpose: to increase the number of credentialed mental health services providers providing school-based mental health services to students in LEAs with demonstrated need. | Purpose: to support and demonstrate innovative partnerships to train school-based mental health service providers for employment in schools and local educational agencies (LEAs). |
| Total funding available: \$500 million | Total funding available: \$500 million |
| Total awarded on Feb 16, 2023: \$141 million to 103 states and school districts (see list of recipients) | Total awarded on Feb 16, 2023: \$46 million in competitive grants to 67 states, school districts, and institutions of higher education (see list of recipients) |

Over the next five years, BSCA will invest \$1 billion in these programs!

To see other funding opportunities available under BSCA see this [fact sheet](#)

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

School Medicaid Trifecta for Sustainability!



Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

Coming by June 2023

Guidance will include:

- ❑ Updates to [2003 Medicaid School-Based Administrative Claiming Guide](#), [1997 Medicaid and Schools Technical Assistance Guide](#)
- ❑ Clarification of Free Care Rule Reversal including how states can expand school Medicaid programs to all Medicaid covered students – not just those with special needs (students with an Individualized Education Plan/IEP).

From Georgetown Center for Children and Families here: [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Greenlights Updated School-Based Medicaid Guidance, TA Center and Grant Funding](#)

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

Coming by June 2023

Guidance will also include:

- Information for LEAs on how to reduce administrative burden and simplify billing
- Best practices on how to finance Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and telehealth services
- Examples for how to expand which school-based health providers can get Medicaid reimbursement

From Georgetown Center for Children and Families here: [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Greenlights Updated School-Based Medicaid Guidance, TA Center and Grant Funding](#)

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

A note about the guidance:

- ❑ The guidance is not a "new financing opportunity" -- it is mainly providing clarification and direction for states as to how they can leverage school Medicaid reimbursement.
- ❑ Still, it will provide helpful instructions and is an important piece of making sure all LEAs are taking full advantage of school Medicaid financing levers.

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

Likely to launch late summer/early fall
2023

Grants:

- ❑ **\$50 million for fiscal year 2022**
- ❑ HHS Secretary to award grants to states for implementing/enhancing school-based Medicaid services
 - ✓ Could be seen as "startup" funds
 - ✓ More info coming re: specific application dates and how states apply

From Georgetown Center for Children and Families here: [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Greenlights Updated School-Based Medicaid Guidance, TA Center and Grant Funding](#)

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

Establish by June 2023

TA Center:

- \$8 million for FY 2022
- Support/increase capacity of State Medicaid Agencies, LEAs, and school-based programs to provide Medicaid reimbursed services and be able to receive Medicaid reimbursement
- Foster collaboration between HHS and Department of Education
- Info for how states and LEAs can get the funding
- Specific support for small and rural schools

From Georgetown Center for Children and Families here: [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Greenlights Updated School-Based Medicaid Guidance, TA Center and Grant Funding](#)

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

How does BSCA compare to ESSER or other relevant legislation and funding opportunities previously available?

| BSCA | ESSER | Medicaid (Free Care Rule) |
|---|---|--|
| There is funding dedicated exclusively for school-based mental health and there is funding dedicated to kick start Medicaid School services | Districts must use at least 20 percent of the funds to address learning loss, but are allowed to use the remainder for other purposes including mental health services and supports | School is a Medicaid-accepted setting - Many school mental health services are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement |
| Competitive grants | Distributed by formula | Fee-For-Service/Cost Based Reimbursement/Reimbursing Administrative Services |
| Learn more here | Learn more here | Learn more here |

Part 2 | BSCA (cont.)

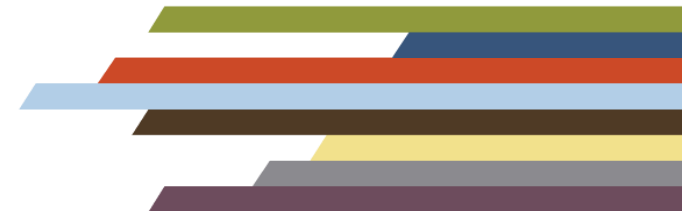
Recap:

- ❑ The "financing opportunity" is primarily through the grant funding to states and school districts to kick start/strengthen their school mental health services
- ❑ The TA and updated Guidance will be useful supports for states and school districts about how to make those services sustainable

Part 3:

Strategies for leveraging the BSCA

How can LEAs and SEAs leverage these opportunities to improve school-based health services?



Part 3 | Strategies

Like any school mental health financing and sustainability efforts, engage stakeholders.

- ❑ **Specific grant requirement under BSCA is to develop** a plan describing how you will collaborate and coordinate with related Federal, State, and local organizations, and other school-based efforts.

We recommend:

[Youth advisory councils](#) and other ways to involve young people in all phases of programming, from ideation, financing, to implementation

Part 3 | Strategies (cont.)

Determine what improvements are needed in school-based mental health care in your state/district/local environment

- ❑ One of BSCA grant priorities is to demonstrate need to increase number of school-based mental health providers.

We recommend:

Ask young people! [Student Health Survey](#) - Gather feedback to understand what is needed

Part 3 | Strategies (cont.)

If following **School-Medicaid trifecta for sustainability** - Check this [resource](#) from the **Healthy Schools Campaign**

- Does your state allow Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services for all Medicaid enrolled youth?
- Who is delivering services in schools and not currently getting reimbursed by Medicaid, but could be?
- What health services are not being provided in schools to all Medicaid enrolled children, but could be?

We recommend:

Promote enrolling and retaining eligible young people in Medicaid, CHIP, or a Marketplace plan, so that young people have health coverage that includes mental health services ([outreach resources](#))

Part 3 | Strategies (cont.)

Encourage and facilitate partnerships among your state education agency, health department, and Medicaid agency to discuss maximizing school-based substance use and mental health services now!

- ❑ Make sure they know about the August 2023 guidance and that federal grants are coming in 2023 -- it's time to get ready!
 - ✓ [August 2022 CMS guidance encouraging states to strengthen their school-based Medicaid programs](#)
- ❑ Identify and engage with the state officials who specifically work on school Medicaid policy

Part 4:

A Discussion with Lena O'Rourke



Lena O'Rourke

Healthy Schools Campaign

Founder and Principal, O'Rourke Health Policy Strategies

Part 4 | Discussion

1

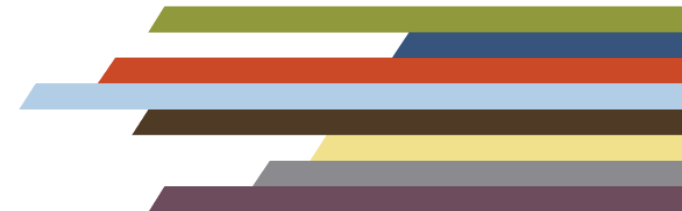
How BSCA provisions strengthen, finance, and sustain school health services

2

How LEAs and SEAs can prepare for the School Medicaid grant applications

3

Action steps for LEAs, SEAs, and community providers



Resources

- ✓ [Interactive School Medicaid Map](#) - Healthy Students, Promising Futures, an HSC program
- ✓ [How Medicaid Can Help Schools Sustain Support for Students' Mental Health](#) - FutureED & Georgetown Center for Children and Families
- ✓ [CMS Preps for Upcoming School Year with New Guidance on Leveraging Medicaid to Support School-Based Services](#) - Georgetown Center for Children and Families
- ✓ [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Greenlights Updated School-Based Medicaid Guidance, TA Center and Grant Funding](#) - Georgetown Center for Children and Families
- ✓ [State Data Hub](#) - Georgetown Center for Children and Families
- ✓ [Advocacy Tool: Help School-Age Youth Get the Behavioral Health Care They Need](#) – Community Catalyst
- ✓ [August 2022 CMS guidance encouraging states to strengthen their school-based Medicaid programs](#)

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Q & A



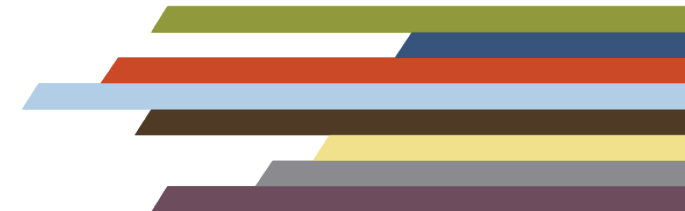
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