



IMPROVING HEALTH AND
MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

National
Quality
Initiative



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

School Health Services National Quality Initiative
Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (ColIN)

Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems Track

The [National Center for School Mental Health](#) (NCSMH) and the [School-Based Health Alliance](#) (the Alliance) invite states to apply to participate in a Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (ColIN) focused on making measurable improvements in the health and mental health of students during the 2021-22 school year. For more information about the Comprehensive School Mental Health ColIN and the application, [please view this webinar](#).

Initiative Overview

The ColIN is part of the School Health Services National Quality Initiative (NQI) funded by Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. A ColIN is a learning community of multidisciplinary teams working together to address a specific, complex challenge. In this ColIN, participating state teams will work with their five (5) participating districts, tribal communities, or regions (hereafter, sites) as well as other state teams and sites to advance their school health and/or mental health quality. Quality improvement is achieved by receiving expert technical assistance and coaching, exchanging best practices and lessons learned with other state and site teams, and tracking progress toward key benchmarks and improvement goals. Quality improvements and innovations are tested *locally* at the site level and are intended to inform state policies and programs that promote quality, sustainability, and growth of school-based health services.

What are Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems?

Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS) provide a full array of tiered supports and services that promote positive school climate, social and emotional learning, and mental health and well-being, while reducing the prevalence and severity of mental illness and substance use. CSMHS are built on a strong foundation of district and school professionals, including administrators and educators, specialized instructional support personnel (e.g., school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, school nurses, and other school health professionals), in strategic collaboration with students, families, and community health and mental health partners. These systems also assess and address the social, political, and environmental structures, including public policies and social norms, that influence mental health outcomes. In most locales, achieving a CSMHS that meets all these criteria is a complex challenge, necessitating the shared learning, technical assistance, and structured quality improvement efforts of a ColIN to apply best practices in the context of local school communities.

Why Participate in the Comprehensive School Mental Health CoIIN

Receive ongoing technical assistance in school mental health: CoIIN teams receive professional development, expert training, coaching, and technical assistance provided at no cost by national experts and peers participating in the collaborative.

“Participating in the CoIIN allowed us to increase collaboration among state-level partners and learn from other states.”

Improve access to and quality of school mental health services: CoIIN teams have the opportunity to develop data-driven strategies to improve access to and quality of mental health prevention, promotion, and intervention services and supports in their local schools and districts.

“We have benefited from hearing about what other states and districts are focusing on and the efforts they are moving forward.”

Strengthen state relationships to enhance school mental health:

This CoIIN is designed to create or strengthen relationships within states among departments of education, behavioral health, Title V, Medicaid, and other state-level partners. It is also designed to create or strengthen the relationship among state-level leadership, local districts, and youth and families to ensure regular feedback loops, communication, and support.

Join a network of peers, create partnerships, and improve the visibility of your work: Regular meetings, group webinars, and online exchanges provide opportunities to exchange ideas with other leaders from different states and districts that are passionate about improving school mental health. Disseminating successes and lessons learned within the CoIIN will bring visibility to school mental health in your state.

Be on the cutting edge of school mental health practice: Improvements and innovations generated and tested in the CoIIN are on the cutting edge of school mental health practice. CoIIN participants are pioneers and leaders in the national movement to elevate the standard of CSMHS for all students throughout the United States.

Shape state policies to support school mental health: Participants will receive guidance and learn from other states to identify and help influence their own state policies to support the advancement of comprehensive school mental health.

Get a better handle on your data: Participating CoIIN teams will receive expert training and peer support in collecting, sharing, and using data for improvement. Teams will learn more about data tracking systems and how to most effectively use student, school, and district data to document impact of school mental health.

Improve your personal and team satisfaction: Previous CoIIN participants report that participation improved their job satisfaction by increasing connections with colleagues doing similar work. The CoIIN offers a supportive accountability structure to stay on track with improvement goals and experience successes and challenges in a positive learning environment.

“Participating in the CoIIN improved and reinforced work we already started. It encouraged us to reach out to other state agencies to collaborate.”

Receive support around emerging topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCSMH has provided extensive support to states and districts across the country. The CoIIN provides a network of peers to share challenges, ideas, and innovations around emerging topics related to COVID-19.

CoIIN Eligibility, Participants, and Roles

The Comprehensive School Mental Health Track is comprised of state and site teams.

All states, territories, and the District of Columbia are eligible to apply to participate in the CoIIN, including states that have previously participated in the School Health Services CoIIN.

State teams include representation from each of the following:

- State Department of Education (serves as the lead or co-lead)
- State Department of Mental/Behavioral Health (serves as co-lead or a state team member)
- State Medicaid agency representative
- State Title V Maternal and Child health agency representative
- At least three other leaders from other state agencies and/or organizations
- Youth leadership¹
- Family leadership²

State teams recruit five sites (district, charter organization, parish, regional entities, tribal communities) including a site lead for each to participate in the CoIIN.³

Expected Responsibilities

State CoIIN teams will be expected to:

- Send two CoIIN state leaders to a two-day, virtual kick-off meeting on September 8 & 9, 2021
- Co-host a virtual state kick-off (including state and sites team) with the NCSMH
- Participate in three virtual learning sessions on specific quality improvement methods and best practices in school mental health
- Participate in monthly, virtual CoIIN calls
- Designate one or two state team members to support, review, and provide feedback on site-level quality improvement efforts and data collection and reporting (i.e., quality measures and monthly [Plan-Do-Study-Act \[PDSA\] cycles](#))
- Report on the impact of CoIIN participation and share experience, progress, and outcomes
- Participate in a National Community of Practice on School Health Services, a facilitated learning community with a goal of accelerating and spreading policies and practices to support school health services
- Complete the State School Mental Health Profile and participate in a follow-up interview to document the landscape of school mental health at the state level

¹ Identification of the Youth leadership is not required as part of this application process. Leaders can be chosen after notification of acceptance but must be selected by June 30, 2021. You may wish to contact your state or local youth leadership organization (Youth Move, Student Government Association) and/or receive guidance from the NCSMH post-award.

² Identification of Family leadership is not required as part of this application process. Leaders can be chosen after notification of acceptance but must be selected by June 30, 2021. You may wish to contact your state or local family leadership organization (National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, National Alliance on Mental Illness) and/or receive guidance from the NCSMH post-award.

³ Identification of the five sites is not required as part of this application process. Sites can be chosen after notification of acceptance but must be selected by June 30, 2021.

CollIN sites will be expected to:

- Register on the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System (no cost, www.theSHAPEsystem.com)
 - Complete the School Mental Health Profile at the beginning of the CollIN (August 2021)
 - Complete the School Mental Health Quality Assessment three times throughout the CollIN (August 2021, February 2022, and June 2022)
- Submit monthly quality measures or comments on quality improvement progress toward ability to report these measures, as follows:
 - Mental health screening
 - Student functioning
 - Chronic absence
 - Students eligible for early intervention (Tier 2) or treatment (Tier 3)
 - Students enrolled in early intervention or treatment services
- Test small changes in system using [Plan-Do-Study-Act \(PDSA\) cycles](#) to achieve incremental improvements, and submit 1 PDSA per month
- Participate in three virtual learning sessions on specific quality improvement methods and best practices in school health services
- Participate in monthly, virtual CollIN calls to share progress and exchange feedback and lessons learned with other state teams

How to Apply

Interested applicants should complete the [online application](#) by April 5th, 2021, 11:59pmET. The application asks you to share the names of your team members and respond to brief essay questions. Essay responses should be no longer than 500 words. Faxed, mailed, or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Applicants will receive an email confirmation of receipt of the application.

Notification of Acceptance

Five states will be selected to participate in the CollIN. Notification of acceptance for the 2021-22 school year will be sent by April 26th, 2021.

Questions

Please contact the NCSMH (ncsmh@som.umaryland.edu) with the subject line "2021-22 CollIN Application."

Timeline of CoIN Activities

| 2021-22 SCHEDULE OF MAIN PROGRAM EVENTS <i>(Dates subject to change)</i> | |
|--|--|
| February 11, 2021 | Request for Applications released |
| April 5, 2021 | Applications due |
| April 26, 2021 | Selected states announced |
| Aug 18, 2021, 1-2pm EST | Welcome and Orientation Webinar |
| Sept 8 & 9, 2021 | State Leadership launch meeting (at least 2 people state team leaders) |
| Sept – Oct, 2021 | Virtual State Kick-off (half day) Co-facilitated by CoIN State Leadership and The National Center for School Mental Health |
| Oct 13, 2021, 1-2 pm EST | Action period call, virtual, 60 minutes |
| Nov 10, 2021, 1-2:30 EST | Learning session 2, virtual, 90 minutes |
| Dec 8, 2021, 1-2 pm EST | Action period call, virtual, 60 minutes |
| Jan 12, 2022, 1-2 pm EST | Action period call, virtual, 60 minutes |
| Feb 9, 2022, 1-2:30 pm EST | Learning session 3, virtual, 90 minutes |
| Mar 16, 2022, 1-2pm EST | Action period call, virtual, 60 minutes |
| Apr 13, 2022, 1-2pm EST | Action period call, virtual, 60 minutes |
| May 11, 2022 1-2:30 EST | Learning session 4, virtual, 90 minutes |
| Jun 8, 2022, 1-2 pm EST | CoIN Celebration, virtual, 60 minutes |

Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems CoIIN Application

CoIIN Leadership:

CoIIN Team Leader (must be a leader from the state department of education; if there will be a co-lead, please include information for both individuals):

State members:⁴

State Department of Mental Health/Behavioral Health representative (name, title, department):

State Medicaid agency representative (name, title, department):

State Title V Maternal and Child Health agency representative (name, title, department):

Other State Agency/Organization Leader (name, title, department):

Other State Agency/Organization Leader (name, title, department):

Other State Agency/Organization Leader (name, title, department):

Youth Leader(s):

Family Leader(s):

Site Information: For each site participating in the CoIIN (e.g., school district, school region, school parish, charter organization), tell us:⁵

Site Name:

Total number of schools within each site:

Name, title, and email of each site's representative:

Essay Questions: (Limit 500 words per question)

What would the participation in this CoIIN make possible for the advancement of high-quality, sustainable comprehensive school mental health systems in your state?

What do you see as the top challenges and opportunities in your state to improve comprehensive school mental health quality?

Describe the five sites (e.g., school district, region, parish, or charter organization) that you have selected for participation in the CoIIN. If you have not yet selected your sites, please describe the process that you will use to choose sites if accepted to be part of the CoIIN.

⁴ Placing a name in the application assumes individuals have agreed to the CoIIN requirements for participation. Identification of Youth and Family leaders is not required as part of this application process. These leaders can be chosen after notification of acceptance but must be selected by June 30, 2021.

⁵ Identification of the five sites is not required as part of this application process. Sites can be chosen after notification of acceptance but must be selected by June 30, 2021.