



## *Behavioral Health Support/Staff Training*

### 1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the pilot program is to provide behavioral health support for youth through providing professional development in the form of trauma informed, culturally responsive community-based staff, supporting and implementing youth development programming.

### 2. **Description of services provided:**

This proviso funding providing funding for:

- Full-time Behavioral Health Specialists for each of the 14 Club organizations.
- Youth-facing staff trained in an evidence based, trauma-informed care approach.
- Implementation of a social and emotional learning curriculum within the 14 Club organizations.

Four community-based youth-serving organizations subcontracted with Boys & Girls Club of WA to implement trauma-informed care and mental health first aid training for their staff and volunteers:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Puget Sound
- Communities in School of Washington
- YMCAs of Washington

Cross-sector partnership ensured continuity of trauma-informed care approach throughout the out-of-school settings in WA state.

### 3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

- Create and/or modify training content Boys & Girls Club staff to include a focus on trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices that align with the CASEL's SEL Framework and SAMHSA's trauma-informed best practices.
- Schedule and deliver 8 hours of training to a minimum of 1,500 community-based organization staff
- Develop and distribute educational materials and resources for a minimum of 50,000



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## Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

- Number of School Districts: N/A
- Number of Schools: N/A
- Number of Students: 66,000
- Number of Educators: N/A
- Other: Club youth & teens 66,000  
(to include youth & teens from sub-contractors)

### 4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

### 5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

### 6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

N/A

### 7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

N/A

### 8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

#### Strategy one:

Across the state, 14 full-time behavioral support specialists (BSS) were hired to support respective Club organization with implementation of the Behavioral Health Pilot. In addition to providing direct support to students, families and staff, BSS also directed staff training efforts, student Social & Emotional Learning programming, family and community engagement events, and grant program reporting and evaluation needs.

- Conducted 19,185 hours in small group mental health promotion sessions.
- Over 475 referrals for families navigating behavioral health resources in their respective communities.
- Provided 2,171 hours in resources to staff to alleviate compassion fatigue.
- 1,144 members serviced in one-to-one mental health support with kids and teens.



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## **Strategy two:**

Boys & Girls Club training 398 full-time and 674 part-time youth development professionals using the PAXIS Institute. PAX Tools for Human Services training curriculum ensures that all interactions are based on principles of trauma-informed care, and guide behavior interventions to be conducted in a therapeutic way to avoid re-traumatization and reinforce positive behaviors and personal wins.

## **Strategy three:**

Over 48,000 Club youth and teens across WA participated in activities implemented with trauma-informed best practices. BSS worked with Club program staff to provide intentionality in determining how to implement evidence based social and emotional learning curriculums and activities into their specific Club settings to build youth competencies in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

## **9. Major challenges faced by the program:**

N/A

## **10. Future opportunities:**

Provide trauma-informed care training to new hires across WA.

- Facilitate professional development opportunities for BSS staff by offering sessions with subject matter experts in the field of mental health promotion.
- Partner on additional staff training with other youth development organizations in WA.
- Assist kids and families with targeted strategies to improve and promote well-being.
- Encourage local Club organizations to further incorporate youth and family voice into mental health promotion planning.

## **11. Statutory and/or budget language:**

\$1,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the superintendent to contract with a community-based youth development nonprofit organization for a pilot program to provide behavioral health support for youth and trauma-informed, culturally responsive staff training.

## **12. Other relevant information:**

None

## **13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

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