Program Announcement

The University of Colorado Boulder’s Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV), is seeking a limited number of middle schools in Front Range communities\(^1\) to work in partnership to implement the updated and expanded **Safe Communities Safe Schools (SCSS) Model**. The updated SCSS Model incorporates the most recent advances in research to support schools’ readiness and capacity to implement a coordinated and comprehensive approach to school safety that is tailored to the specific needs and priorities of each school.

- **Results**: The SCSS Model is estimated to increase pro-social behaviors and reduce problem behaviors by up to 30% and will build the long-term capacity of schools and school districts to continue the work on their own.

**Safe Communities Safe Schools 3 Core Components:**
The SCSS Model is delivered through 3 interdependent Core Components and an Implementation Roadmap that outlines a process for delivering evidence-based programs and strategies to meet each school’s unique data-identified needs while maintaining fidelity to the overall SCSS Model.

1. **School Team/Community Partnerships** – **Getting the right people to the table.** Engage a multi-disciplinary school planning and design team and develop key community partnerships (e.g., mental health, law enforcement, human services, juvenile justice) committed to data-based decision making, cultural responsiveness, fair and consistent disciplinary practices, and school-wide change.

2. **Gathering Intelligence** – Using data to **tell the stories of the school.** Implement an intelligence gathering system at both the student and school levels to identify and address early indicators related to students’ behavioral and mental health needs and to guide schools’ selection of evidence-based programs, practices and policies matched to need.

3. **Evidence-Based Multi-tiered System of Supports** – **Finding the best fit innovations.** Develop a tiered system of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs, practices, and policies matched to student and school need. This includes a school wide approach to social and emotional learning (SEL) and builds staff capacity to identify and address student needs at the universal (i.e., all students), targeted (i.e., at-risk students), and intensive levels (i.e., students with high needs).

For more information about the Safe Communities Safe Schools Model, please see the following link: [http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/safeschools/SCSS_Overview_Brochure.pdf](http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/safeschools/SCSS_Overview_Brochure.pdf)

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\(^1\) Geographically defined as the Urban corridor stretching north to Fort Collins and south to Pueblo, including the Denver Metro area
Eligibility and Requirements:
- Middle schools (or schools containing middle school grades e.g. K-8, 6-12)
- Support and commitment of school leadership and school safety team members (school and district levels) – selected schools will sign an agreement that details the roles and responsibilities of each party
- Willingness to participate as an intervention or control condition (all schools will receive the intervention by the end of the grant period 2019-2020 school year)
- Implementation of annual school climate surveys for students and staff (beginning fall 2016)
- Provision of school-level data (attendance, behavior, academic outcomes)
- Participation in two 1.5 day trainings per year of the project and ongoing technical assistance for school teams
- Fidelity monitoring of program implementation, to include interviews and annual feedback surveys and possibly classroom observations

Schools will Receive:
- Intensive training, coaching and technical assistance around the SCSS Model Core Components
- Comprehensive school climate data and student-level screening and assessment tools
- Tools and resources around monitoring school climate and safety
- Social emotional learning strategies for staff and students
- Training and materials for one Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development program
- The opportunity to participate in a Community of Practice with other schools and districts
- $1,000 stipend for years in the control group

Timeline:
The application will be available starting January 4, 2016 and will be due on February 1, 2016. A pre-application informational conference call will be conducted on Friday, January 8, 2016 from 10:00-11:00 to assist schools interested in applying. Feasibility visits will be conducted with applicants who meet the eligibility and application requirements. Site selection will be announced by April 1, 2016. Implementation will begin with the 2016-2017 school year.

SCSS Partners:
CSPV has convened a multidisciplinary group of experts and researchers in implementation science, systems dynamics, social emotional learning, cultural responsiveness, bullying and violence prevention and mental health/trauma services to support the development, delivery and sustainability of the SCSS Model.

Effective implementation of the SCSS Model depends on both state and local support. State level partners include the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Division of Behavioral Health, Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Safe2Tell, Colorado Association of School Executives, Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Education Initiative, and Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool. Local partnerships will be solidified through the readiness process.

Funding Source:
This project is supported the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice as part of their Comprehensive School Safety Initiative.

THE APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING January 4, 2016 AT:
http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools/

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