Funding Opportunity – Safe Communities Safe Schools
University of Colorado Boulder

**Project Description:** The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at CU-Boulder has received funding to partner with Colorado Front Range Middle Schools to promote school safety and a positive school climate. We will work in alignment with what schools are already doing and use an individualized, feasible approach that is driven by each school and their identified needs and priorities.

**What Schools Will Receive:** We will meet schools where they are in their safety planning process and provide customized tools, resources, strategies (e.g., Social Emotional Learning training) including a Blueprint program of each school’s choice to help meet their prevention and early intervention goals. We will also provide schools with real-time data about their school to help monitor their efforts.

**Project Goals:**
- Promote positive school climate and increase school safety
- Increase student pro-social behaviors (e.g., social emotional learning, academic achievement)
- Address mental health needs and reduce student problem behaviors (e.g., delinquency, bullying, violence)
- Provide support to schools for building effective partnerships with community agencies to meet students’ needs

**Overview of the SCSS Approach:** SCSS works in close partnership with schools and communities to deliver the most effective programs and strategies known to impact school safety and promote a positive school climate in ways that are feasible and tailored to their unique needs. Our approach focuses on 3 Core Components and an implementation framework called the SCSS Implementation Road Map that strengthens, integrates, and aligns existing efforts.

**Core Components:**
1. **Engage a School Team:** Most schools already have school teams in place and we will work with these existing teams to create safety-oriented school action plans tailored to the needs of each school. We also encourage schools to include community partners on their team and we will provide guidance to ensure the effectiveness of cross-agency multi-disciplinary teams.
2. **Gather Information:** We will work closely with schools to collect and interpret data at the school (e.g., climate, rates of bullying, violence, and mental health) and student levels (e.g., identify students’ behavioral and mental health needs).
3. **Build a strong Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS):** We will support a schoolwide approach to social and emotional learning (SEL), while building the capacity of schools and community agencies to address student needs at the universal (all students), targeted (some students), and intensive levels (a few students).

**SCSS Implementation Roadmap:**
The roadmap outlines a five-phase process for implementing evidence-based programs and strategies to meet each school’s unique data-identified needs. The five phases include: (1) **Build a Foundation** (vision and goals with your team), (2) **Identify Gaps** (through information gathering), (3) **Create an Individualized School Action Plan** (select one Blueprint program and identify practices and policies matched to your school’s needs), (4) **Implement your School Action Plan,** and (5) **Evaluate** (to monitor your efforts).

**Staggered Implementation:** Implementation will be staggered over 4 years with 9 schools starting the project each year, so that all 36 schools will receive the intervention by Year 4. Schools that are in later implementation groups will still have the opportunity to complete staff and student surveys and receive real time user-friendly reports on their school. They will also receive a $1,000 stipend (per year). Additional information will be collected at the implementation schools to learn to what extent programs and strategies are being used every year.

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