



## NC Counts Coalition K-12 Behavioral Health Project

Through wraparound services of the ReOpening Schools award NC DHHS, DCFW makes mental and behavioral health services available for school-aged children/students who have experienced the impacts of COVID-19 and COVID-19 testing, including, but not limited to: disruption of educational routine and environment, loss of parent or guardian, pandemic-induced anxiety and stress, implementation of mitigation strategies, and stigma of positive test results.

Through wraparound services of the ReOpening Schools award, NC Counts will lead its extensive network of Community-based organization (CBO) partner organizations in co-designing a collaborative plan through Healthier Together that expands the capacity of CBOs to address the behavioral health needs of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and others) children/students in grades K-12 who have been impacted by COVID-19 (e.g., disruption of educational routine and environment, loss of parent or guardian, COVID-19 mitigation measures, positive COVID-19 test results). BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and others) children have been disproportionately impacted by the behavioral health challenges of the pandemic. Depressive symptoms among Black and Latinx children/students are now 78% higher than they were before the pandemic. Suicidality is now 123% higher among LGBTQ+ children/students than among North Carolina children/students overall.

Addressing the behavioral and mental health needs of these children/students has the potential of reducing child/student absenteeism, thereby enhancing learning, and improving children's overall health. The project will focus on children/students including those that identify as BIPOC and LGBTQ+, parents/caregivers and agencies who support children/students in North Carolina through Healthier Together<sup>1</sup>.

### **Project Goals**

NC Counts, through participatory assessment strategies, will identify:

1. Pathways to address community barriers and needs to address behavioral health for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ school-aged students in North Carolina families through wraparound services of the ReOpening Schools award.

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<sup>1</sup> Healthier Together: Health Equity Action Network, also known as Healthier Together, is a new public private partnership to increase the number of individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and from other historically marginalized populations\* receiving COVID-19 vaccinations across the state of North Carolina.



2. Strategies to address gaps in access to behavioral healthcare for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ children in North Carolina through wraparound services of the ReOpening Schools award.
3. Opportunities to build the resources and capacity needed to support CBOs in their work to meet the behavioral health needs of school-aged youth and their families through wraparound services of the ReOpening Schools award.
4. Trust-building barriers and opportunities between CBOs and government to advance collaborations that advance health equity through wraparound services of the ReOpening Schools award.

This approach centers voices of school aged youth, their families and community voices and puts the community at the table to drive development of practical and effective strategies for greater community impact.

### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENT**

NC Counts is looking to partner with Coalition member community-based organizations (CBOs) who deliver services, resources or programs for BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+ children, parents or caretakers to conduct community assessments with parents/caregivers and agencies who support children/students in North Carolina to identify:

1. Community priorities related to behavioral health for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ children in North Carolina
2. Community barriers and needs to address behavioral health for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ children in North Carolina
3. Gaps in access to behavioral healthcare for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ children in North Carolina
4. The impact of COVID-19 on behavioral health of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ children in North Carolina

Community assessment events must include 3 components:

1. A preliminary survey that identifies gaps in community understanding of behavioral health
2. An educational element that provides a foundation for the definition of behavioral health and includes information on COVID-19 education and resources
3. A wrap-up that identifies community needs and provides information and access to available community resources

Community participants will receive a \$25 gift card as compensation for completion of each component.



NC Counts will provide partner organizations with facilitation guides, questionnaires, and other resources to support this project. NC Counts Coalition will also provide messaging and other communications support, and will cover any costs associated with marketing and promotions.

NC Counts' regional team will work with CBOs to develop outreach strategies and for implementation. NC Counts' regional team members must approve all strategies/tactics/plans prior to implementation. Partner organizations can also request technical guidance from regional staff to complete the required grant report.

### **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

1. CBO grants/contracts will only be awarded to organizations who:
  - a. Are members of NC Counts Coalition and in good standing with the Coalition
  - b. Are incorporated in North Carolina
  - c. Provide benefits to BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+ community children, K-12
  - d. Have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status
    - i. Receiving organizations without 501(c)(3) status must partner with an established local organization with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status that will serve as a fiscal sponsor.
2. Grants/Contracts cannot exceed \$7,000 total per organization for community assessments
  - a. Organizations that partner with NC Counts for community assessments are not precluded from receiving a grant for the CBO assessment portion of this project
3. Contracts are for reimbursable grants - NC Counts has scheduled payment to partner organizations to take place by ACH or paper check by August 21, 2023. If there are any unforeseen delays, such as delayed payment to NC Counts from NC DHHS, we will provide notification as soon as delays arise.
  - a. CBOs do not need to invoice NC Counts for funds. Submission of the final report will serve as an invoice for payment.
4. Grant/Contract period - All work to be completed under this phase of the project must be completed by July 7, 2023. Grant reports must be received by 11:59 pm on Monday, July 10, 2023.
5. Funded organizations must engage at least 25-50 community members
6. Incentives and other costs associated with outreach activities
  - a. NC Counts Coalition will provide incentives for outreach
    - i. Refreshments - NC Counts' regional directors have a limited budget to fund refreshments to support outreach strategies. Your



organizational grant funding may not be used for food and drink expenses.

- ii. Gift Cards - NC Counts can provide gift card incentives in the amount of \$25 per 30 minute session. Gift cards will only be provided for a maximum of three (3) 30 minute sessions to any one individual. Gift card recipients must provide their name and address in order to receive their gift card.

- b. NC Counts will pay for event space, where applicable

7. COVID-19 Component

- a. Outreach strategies must be connected to COVID-19 information and resources
- b. NC Counts can help CBO partners connect COVID-19 to behavioral health outreach

8. Grant Report - CBO partners must complete a report in a provided form/template that includes the following information:

- a. Organization
- b. Organization's mission statement
- c. Population served
- d. Geographic coverage
- e. Method of outreach
- f. Event sign in Sheet
  - i. Name of participant
  - ii. Address
  - iii. Demographics of participants
- g. Date of outreach
- h. Number of participants
- i. Outreach methods
  - i. Information provided to participants
  - ii. Questions asked of participants
- j. Outreach data/results

9. CBO partners must agree to [terms of conditions](#) of NC Counts' contract with NC DHHS