



A sampling of the quality, depth and richness of the funded proposals:

“Co-located within the YWCA women’s shelter, which provides safe residence to victims of domestic violence and their children, our ECMH service will embed an early childhood mental health consultant in pediatrician offices and at the family health center.”

“The project will focus primarily on addressing the ECMH needs by expanding the number of licensed centers receiving consultation services, building community partnerships and increasing overall awareness among early childhood care providers and educators.”

“We will expand the New Ohio/Georgetown ECMH Classroom Consultation program to at least 25 additional high-need early childhood centers and other early childhood settings. Our Master trainers will provide culturally competent and trauma-informed trainings, helping sustain the growth of quality ECMH professionals in 22 counties.

“One exciting additional connection to community partners will be with our newly operational Federally Qualified Health Center. Their role is to serve lower income at risk community members with various medical, developmental and emotional needs. They are able to provide ECMH referrals along with an array of medical and behavioral health services under one roof which leads to an improved coordination and continuity of care for all patients. Together with these various partners children 0-6 and their families will experience improved access to early childhood mental health services and expanded parent supports by providing parents with strategies to improve children’s social and emotional coping skills”

“Using Early Childhood Mental Health Professionals, it is our goal to impact the relationships and experiences of children in our region, reducing risk factors associated with preschool expulsion. Through a three tiered approach to community prevention and early intervention, we propose to impact the system of care that children and families encounter in our region. We aim to use a population health management strategy to promote Early Childhood Whole Health & Wellness. This strategy will start with assessment of needs, analyzing the current system of care, noting gaps, stratifying risks, engaging families and communities to manage care in their community and then measuring outcomes.”

“In addition, programmatic consultation services will include regular meetings with childcare staff, classroom observation, working with staff to develop caregiving practices that promote growth and stability and nurturing parental engagement and involvement.”

“ECMH consultants in the proposed project will work closely with community mental health agencies embedded within the region to ensure high quality, effective service delivery. Project goals include: decreasing the preschool and Kindergarten suspension and expulsion rates in partnering counties to below state average of 4-7/1,000 students; creating individualized plans to promote social and emotional skills for identified, high-risk children; developing center-based action plans to educate staff and improve environment; decreasing behavioral challenges and develop a system of regional supports and resources.”

“One of the goals is to break the school-home cycle of reports being sent home which are perceived as negative behaviors by the parents. Often a child is given consequences at school, then returns home and is again disciplined by the parents creating a negative school relationship and setting the child up for failure. Part of the proposed interventions will be the reduction of stigma related to children who have emotional, developmental, environmental and sensory issues that result in labeling the child rather than the behavior.”

“At-risk families face high levels of stress. Poverty and stress can profoundly affect a child's social-emotional development in families rendered vulnerable by financial hardship, unemployment, disability, mental health problems, disruption through death or divorce, or other emotional and psychological difficulties. In the face of these challenges, of course, some families are more resilient than others, yet research suggests that providing resources to vulnerable families of young children can have a profound effect on the child's readiness for school. As "the child's first teachers" parents are important in fostering school readiness. Establishing strong partnerships with families and communicating effectively with parents about their child's education is a fundamental goal. Families are critical members of the child's treatment team. Families are involved with the development of intervention plans and participate in ongoing meetings and when indicated for more severe cases, entered based therapy sessions.”

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