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NCHS awards \$3.8M to 19 school corporations

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WEST LAFAYETTE — North Central Health Services has awarded over \$3.8 million in Resilient Youth Initiative implementation grants to 19 school corporations in Indiana. The grants will support schools in seven counties launching evidenced-based youth resiliency programs, reaching an anticipated 33,000 K-12 students by the 2021-22 school year.

Schools include: Attica Consolidated School Corporation, Benton Community School Corporation, Clinton Central School Corporation, Clinton Prairie School Corporation, Community Schools of Frankfort, Covington Community School Corporation, Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, Delphi Community School Corporation, Faith Christian School, Frankfort Crossing School of Business & Entrepreneurship, Frontier School Corporation, Lafayette Catholic School System, Lafayette School Corporation, North Montgomery Community School Corporation, South Montgomery Community School Corporation, Southeast Fountain School Corporation, Tippecanoe School Corporation, Tri-County School Corporation and Twin Lakes School Corporation.

NCHS's investment in the Resilient Youth Initiative totals over \$6 million in direct funding and support for schools in its eight-county service area to explore, pilot and evaluate the impact of evidenced-based social-emotional competency, drug resistance and mental well-being curriculums.

The NCHS Resilient Youth Initiative was informed by community health conversations conducted throughout the NCHS service area in 2018, at which school administrators shared their concerns about the mental health and well-being of their students. These needs were confirmed by the NCHS and River Bend Hospital 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment.

When implemented with fidelity, funded programs like Second Step and Botvin Life Skills have proven positive student outcomes related to mental wellbeing, academics, relationships and substance use.

In the spring, Resilient Youth Initiative grantees used NCHS planning grant funds and technical assistance to identify the needs of their students and match those needs to the evidence-based programs that fit their school culture, goals and schedules.

In the implementation phase of the initiative, the three-year grants will fund the training, coordination and materials needed to implement the programs with fidelity. NCHS will also fund one-on-one grantee coaching from field experts, custom implementation trainings, and initiative-wide evaluation by an independent research partner to explore the overall impact on schools and students.

“We recognize this initiative is just one piece of the puzzle when it comes to developing youth resiliency,” said Stephanie Long, CEO and president, NCHS. “But when implemented well, evidenced-based social-emotional learning and substance use prevention programs can substantially improve students’ self-management and social skills and lower substance use. We appreciate the schools’ willingness to partner with us to explore the potential of these programs to improve the health and well-being of the youth in our communities.”

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