

# Mental Health Awareness Training Grant (Sept 21-Sept 26)

## Grant Summary

The Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health applied for and was awarded the Fiscal Year 2021 Mental Health Awareness Training grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The purpose of this grant is to (1) train individuals (e.g., school personnel, emergency first responders, law enforcement, veterans, armed services members and their families) to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders, particularly serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbance (SED); (2) establish linkages with school and community-based mental health agencies to refer individuals with the signs or symptoms of mental illness to appropriate services; (3) train emergency services personnel, law enforcement, fire department personnel, veterans, and others to identify persons with a mental disorder and employ crisis de-escalation techniques; and (4) educate individuals about resources that are available in the community for individuals with a mental disorder. The grant will prepare and train others on how to respond to individuals appropriately and safely with mental disorders, particularly individuals with SMI or SED.

## Funding

The award is \$125,000 per year for the next five years beginning September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2026.

## Partners

Partners include the National Alliance on Mental Illness of South Dakota (NAMI SD). To learn more about NAMI SD, please visit:

<https://namisouthdakota.org/>



## DBH Grant Activities

This project will support school-aged youth (18 and under) and youth-serving adults including school personnel, youth-serving organizations, and parents/guardian of youth.

Project goals include the following:

- Expand the capacity to detect and respond to mental health disorders impacting school-aged youth, connecting those identified with mental health needs to services.
- Provide evidence-based training to increase mental health literacy to support the referral of youth with mental health needs to resources for support.
- Promote awareness surrounding mental health disorders, encourage help-seeking behaviors, connection to resources and support for youth identified with mental health needs within their school and community.



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