



**Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports**  
**45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21401**

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Wes Moore, Governor; Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
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## **Coordinated Community Supports Partnerships: Role of Schools and School Districts**

The Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, a new entity created by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, is developing a statewide model to expand access to behavioral health and related services for Maryland students. With guidance from the Consortium, the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) will implement a **grant program** to support the development of Coordinated Community Supports Partnerships.

**Partnership model:** The Consortium proposes to use principles of the Collective Impact model, through Hubs and Spokes, to structure new local Coordinated Community Supports Partnerships. Each Partnership's Hub (or "Backbone") will coordinate the activities of a number of service providers ("Spokes") for all the schools within the Partnership's service area. Together, a Hub and its Spokes form a Partnership.

At full implementation, every jurisdiction and school should be covered by a local Partnership. Partnerships may exist at the jurisdiction level, or could be sub-jurisdictional or regional/multi-jurisdictional. Partnerships should not be duplicative and may not overlap. Partnerships should build on existing services and relationships. For more information on Partnerships, click [HERE](#).

The Consortium is currently developing recommendations for the first Coordinated Community Supports Call for Proposals (RFP) to be issued in spring/summer 2023. This funding will support services in schools beginning during the 2023-2024 school year. Information on the RFP will be posted on the CHRC's website at: <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/home.aspx>

**Role of schools and school districts:** Schools and school districts currently are not eligible to be Hubs or Spokes. Schools will not be eligible to receive direct grant funding. Grant funding cannot be used to hire school-employed staff, including school counselors, psychologists, or social workers. Grant funds cannot be used for school renovations, but could be used to furnish therapeutic spaces in schools.

While schools will not receive direct grant funding, schools will play an integral role in all partnerships. All grant applicants will be required to submit a letter of support from, or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with, their local school district. Service providers may not operate in a school without a MOU. School districts should be represented on their local Partnership Advisory Board and will have a voice in Partnership decisions.

**How else will school staff benefit from the initiative?** In addition, school staff may receive behavioral health-focused training, support, and program materials through this initiative. This support could be provided through a trainer who is awarded grant funding under the Coordinated Community Supports RFP. Schools and school districts interested in receiving staff training and support are encouraged to engage with organizations that provide these services, share with them information about the upcoming Coordinated Community Supports RFP, and provide a letter of support for the training organization's grant application.

Alternatively, schools may be eligible to participate in training and technical assistance around selected Evidence-Based Programs (EBPs) that will be coordinated through the [National Center for School Mental Health](#). More information about this training and technical assistance program will be available in the coming months.

The Consortium seeks to improve student wellbeing and readiness to learn. In addition to the training and materials described above, school staff will be able to help connect their students and families with new support for meeting behavioral health challenges. Grant funds will expand access to services including: preventative programming; universal supports; individual, group, and family therapy; wraparound/case management/care coordination services; substance use services; behavioral health education, support, and navigation for families; crisis planning and services; telehealth services; support groups; and more. These services will be readily accessible for students and families. Each school's referral system may vary, and will likely involve school support staff. Through this initiative, school staff will be more able to refer students and families to community providers to address their holistic needs.