



Mental Health Student Support Services Act Project Summary

The Tri-City Mental Health Authority (Tri-City) Mental Health Student Support Services Act Project (MHSSA Project) aims to increase access to collaborative, coordinated, culturally-relevant, family driven, community and school-based services to high-risk youth in Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne. Project goals include:

- Increasing service provision for children, youth, and young adults;
- Improving behavioral and physical health and functioning for individuals served;
- Providing person- and family-centered, trauma-informed care;
- Optimizing all available funding/support sources to facilitate clients' positive outcomes; and
- Maximizing behavioral health and school personnel workforce's clinical capacity and culturally relevant competencies.

The MHSSA Project will support youth and family recovery, assist clients with obtaining mental health services, and create rapid access-to-care pipelines and linkages to available resources. Project personnel will provide triage services to determine the appropriate level of care, connect with providers, and complete referrals as necessary. Tri-City will provide youth with mental health services on school campuses in early intervention, suicide prevention, drop-out prevention, evidence-based mental health practices, and the development and coordination of service plans to address ongoing needs.

MHSSA grant funds will be used to strengthen partnerships with local school districts (Pomona Unified, Claremont Unified, Bonita Unified), charter school (The School of Arts and Enterprise), higher education, law enforcement, health providers, and community agencies to leverage resources that help students succeed. This MHSSA Project partnership will create a more accessible and inclusive mental health system rooted in youth-centered planning and cultural understanding, competency, and compassion; it will remove discriminatory barriers and incorporate accommodating and uplifting approaches to care. Project staff will provide mental health care services tailored to an individual's identity, culture, and lived experience. This MHSSA Project will improve timely access to services for underserved populations and high-risk youth and young adults that include foster youth, youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, and youth who have been expelled or suspended from school.

Tri-City's MHSSA Project services and activities include:

- The creation of a short screening tool for partners and community members to identify at-risk youth who could benefit from early intervention;
- Offers and linkages to therapeutic outpatient services;
- Case management;
- Prevention and early intervention;
- A community-wide campaign to increase mental health awareness, to reduce discrimination against people with mental illness, and to end mental health stigma; and
- Training for MHSSA Project staff and members of the community to recognize signs of mental illness and substance use disorders, to provide initial support to youth who may be experiencing a problem, and to help connect them to appropriate care.