Health Improvement Funding Opportunity

Addressing Childhood Trauma in the Southeast

Evidence continues to emerge about the negative social-emotional and health impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress. Young children who have experienced significant trauma and toxic stress are more likely than their peers to have developmental delays and difficulty with self-regulation, which impacts their health and well-being. Trauma and toxic stress are amplified in areas that are more prone to natural disasters and economic dislocation. When institutions and caretakers are not aware of the impact of trauma, they sometimes react to the symptoms of stress in ways that reinforce harmful trends.

ACES is a topic of increased conversation at the state and national levels. Solutions and interventions are varied. Some strategies target the individuals suffering from toxic stress and adverse experiences to teach them effective coping mechanisms. Other approaches help institutions such as schools, first responders, and health systems recognize the signs of stress and create safer and more supportive spaces. Some regions are developing community-wide plans for addressing adverse childhood experiences that involve engaging the public, raising awareness, and mapping the root causes of toxic stress.

It is imperative that any effort to help residents heal directly engages the marginalized populations that disproportionately suffer from toxic stress and adverse experiences. Only those initiatives shaped by people afflicted by trauma are likely to make an enduring impact.

Goal

Address childhood trauma for low-income children.
Strategy
Support community-based research and education efforts that engage residents in the process to better understand and build awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences and/or support system change approaches that increase access to mental health services and trauma informed care, which may include capacity building, coordinating within and across systems, innovative ideas and programs, and advocacy.

Timeframe for Applications
Call-by date: September 23, 2019
Application deadline: October 10, 2019

Geographic Focus
Robeson, Columbus and Bladen counties

Opportunity Details
Organizations and collaboratives in Robeson, Columbus, and Bladen counties are working to address the impacts of toxic stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences. The problem is acute in this region that is prone to hurricanes, flooding, and economic dislocation. The communities in the southeastern section of the state are resource starved, which leads to provider shortages and too few services to meet the demand. Institutions do not always have the opportunity or resources for technical assistance or the funding to implement trauma informed approaches.

The Trust is interested in hearing from applicants who can assist with community-wide planning efforts to map the root causes of trauma and suggest interventions. We also are interested in initiatives to build awareness about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, which could include training institutions to take trauma-informed approaches. The Trust also seeks proposals that aim to improve coordination within or between systems to improve care for people impacted by adverse experiences. Competitive applications will directly engage the communities that disproportionately suffer from toxic stress and trauma.

Contact
To schedule a conversation about this opportunity, please contact Program Coordinator Alison Duncan for an initial consultation at alison@kbr.org or 336-397-5521.