



April 19, 2023

It is with great pleasure that NAMI Kansas is collaborating with Future Service Leaders (FSL) and the Rural Vitality Center in applying for funding under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) FY 2023 Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) Program. Funding will allow for expansion, enhancement, and coordination of mental health services and data collection and analysis within school systems in USD 251 Northern Heights, USD 420 Osage City, and USD 330 Mission Valley School Districts and beyond. Programming and Mental Health First Aid training will be offered to school system personnel in order to recognize and refer children and youth experiencing mental health situations and crises. Crosswinds, our mental health provider, will actively engage the community as well in educating and accepting referrals for their services, therefore increasing overall access and decreasing the barriers of cost and services. This five year project will be a gamechanger for the community and will provide much-needed services to young people and their families, as well as increase the capacity of the mental health system in the provision of a multitude of services. The project will provide a range of services across the three tiers of service delivery – prevention, intervention, and treatment.

NAMI Kansas is a community-based nonprofit organization, whose mission is to provide signature programs of support, education and advocacy to those living with a mental illness, as well as their friends and family members. NAMI Kansas intends to partner with FSL to establish a new NAMI affiliate serving Lyon, Osage, and Wabaunsee counties in Kansas in part through this grant funding, which will help train program leaders to provide NAMI signature programs in these areas.

We are committed to this project over the next five years, and in doing so, we will provide/offer/give:

- *Technical support regarding NAMI programs and trainings*
- *Training and supervision of NAMI program leaders*
- *Share program participation and other data as needed for the purposes of this project*
- *Other support as required for the success of the program and the new NAMI affiliate*

Targeted outcomes include increasing awareness and professional development in staff and personnel in the school system, increasing access to mental health services for children and youth through Crosswinds, increased numbers of youth receiving direct mental health services to decrease their symptoms and increase coping skills, and a more thoroughly integrated data collection system to direct current and future programming through in depth and multiple data analysis methods. These interventions will ultimately lead to a brighter and healthier future for young throughout the state.

It is NAMI Kansas' distinct honor to support and participate in this project with FSL as it provides a holistic model for mental health services, treatment, and evaluation. We are thrilled to be embarking on this journey!

Sincerely,

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