



The Jed Foundation

## **Project AWARE Summary for Potential Applicants**

(updated 6/30/2022)

*UPDATE: Under the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) signed into law on 6/25/22, the Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) received an annual stipend of \$240,000,000 to fund initiatives under Project AWARE beginning in 2022 and lasting through 2025. SAMHSA has not yet indicated whether the 2022 deadline, previously 5/2, will be extended once these additional funds are made available.*

### **Background**

Established in 2014, SAMHSA's Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) grant provides funding for collaborative partnerships across State Educational Associations (SEAs), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), and State Mental Health Agencies to implement programming that promotes student mental health. For FY2022, SAMHSA plans to provide grants of up to \$1,800,000, although this amount will likely increase under recent congressional funding actions. **Click [here](#) for more details and full eligibility requirements.**

### **How to Use Project AWARE for Mental Health Programs**

Funding being appropriated to states, counties, LEAs, and Native American Educational Organizations through Project AWARE can be used by school districts to pay for services provided by [The Jed Foundation \(JED\)](#), specifically the [JED High School](#) program. JED High School guides schools through a collaborative process of program and policy development, with customized support by a dedicated advisor to help you build upon your existing student mental health offerings. This 18 to 24-month strategic partnership allows you to assess and enhance the work already being done, as well as foster positive, systemic change in your school and greater community. JED has worked with nearly 70 high schools representing tens of thousands of students. **If you're an administrator who's interested in bringing JED to your school, fill out our [information form](#) and we will be in touch.**

Below are additional examples of how schools are using Project AWARE to offer mental health supports:

- **Strengthening mental health resources**
  - Culturally-competent support: The Lummi Indian Business Council provides access to traditional and spiritual healing practices for school-age youth and their families.
  - Professional screening: The South Carolina Department of Education hired behavioral health professionals to screen for and treat mental health concerns in students.
- **Connecting students to care:**
  - Workforce training: The Maine Department of Education provides evidence-based mental wellness training to community and school-based clinicians and nonclinical school staff.
- **Creating supportive communities:**
  - Community awareness: The Oklahoma Department of Education developed a mental health awareness and outreach campaign to reduce high levels of community stigma.

*The foregoing is a summary for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon without consultation from your advisors. JED is not responsible for any omissions or inaccuracies with respect to the foregoing information.*