



Trauma Recovery Demonstration Grant Overview

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and the Division of Federal Support & Grantee Relations was awarded a \$7.5 million five-year federal grant by the U.S. Department of Education to expand and deliver mental health services to students who are economically disadvantaged, academically struggling, and have experienced trauma. These funds are for the benefit of eligible preschool, elementary and secondary students enrolled in Louisiana public, charter and private schools. The Trauma Recovery Demonstration Grant (TRDG) funds will expire September 30, 2024.

Purpose of Grant: The purpose of the grant program is to enable students from an economically disadvantaged family who have experienced trauma and subsequently, demonstrate academic, behavioral, attendance, or other issues at school, to access trauma-specific treatment.

Our Goal: The goal of the grant program is to increase student well-being, adaptive student behavior, school safety and academic performance by supporting trauma-specific treatment.

Examples of Trauma: Traumatic incidents may occur inside or outside of school. Some examples of potential traumatic events include: bullying (including cyberbullying); harassment; experiencing violence (e.g., school shootings, abuse in the home, community violence); other physical, emotional or life-threatening events that have lasting adverse effects on a school aged youth's functioning and mental, physical, social, or emotional health; suicide clusters; the death of a close family member; emotional neglect/abuse; family mental illness; homelessness; natural disaster; parent deployed; parent in jail; parents divorced; serious injury to self; and, sexual abuse.

Which students are eligible to participate in the TRDG?

Any preschool, elementary or secondary student enrolled in a Louisiana public, charter, or private school who meets the following three criteria:

- Previously documented or suspected trauma that is adversely affecting the student's academic performance/progress, attendance, and/or behavior
- Student is identified as economically disadvantaged
- Student cannot access public or commercial health insurance programs because services through such programs are either unavailable, insufficient, or unaffordable

Who can provide trauma-specific services to students?

The TRDG pays for trauma-specific treatment provided by an enrolled Louisiana licensed mental health professional. Each participating provider has been vetted by the LDOE to ensure he/she/they has: 1. A valid and up to date license and 2. Training in trauma-focused mental health services. Parents/guardians are encouraged to select a mental health provider that best fits their needs. Trauma-specific counseling will be provided to eligible students at no cost to their family.

Student Referrals: Referrals for services can come from many different avenues, there is no wrong door. A parent may request services on behalf of their student, the student may be referred by a staff member at their school, the student may be referred by a member of a schools' School Building Level Committee (SBLC), the student may receive a referral through the Department of Children & Family Services, or a service provider may identify a student who meets eligibility criteria and is in need of services.

How do school systems apply to participate in the TRDG?

School systems can contact Anna Novogratz with the Louisiana Department of Education (Anna.Novogratz@LA.gov, 225-366-9170) to learn more about the grant program and receive further instructions.