

***Mental Health of New Hampshire's Children and Their Families***  
**Program Year 2010****GOAL: "To improve the mental health of New Hampshire's children and their families"**

One in five New Hampshire children between ages five and nineteen has a diagnosable mental health disorder. That's an estimated 56,000 kids. Mental health disorders are more common than childhood asthma or obesity, yet most children in need of care do not receive it. A number of national reports have described the mental health delivery system as fragmented and in disarray. Access to mental health care is inhibited by workforce shortages, stigma surrounding mental illnesses, discriminatory insurance coverage, and limited state capacity to deliver care that works. Untreated mental health issues can lead to school failure, incarceration, economic insecurity, and unnecessary disability. That is why the Endowment for Health is making a five-year commitment to this theme.

**Investment to date: \$2,704,524****Number of grants to date: 50****Theme Outcomes**

- Mental health care for children and their families is integrated, co-located and/or coordinated within a system of care
- Children and their families' mental health care is of high quality and utilizes research-based interventions
- The capacity to advocate for children and their families' mental health is strengthened

**Theme Strategies**

- Create sustainable systems that promote professional development, inter-disciplinary education and practice
- Increase collaboration and improve communication among providers within a system of care
- Involve community-based partners in creating coordinated systems of care
- Involve families and youth as full partners in improving the mental health care of children and their families
- Advocate to improve policies at all levels
- Improve communication and public education efforts to increase awareness of and action on issues important to children and their families' mental health
- Conduct applied research and collect data that improves policy and enhances the delivery of care
- Develop, pilot, and disseminate innovative service delivery models and/or replicate or expand on proven models

## Overall Progress

The Endowment launched the Children's Mental Health theme in Program Year 2008. In the past two years, the Endowment has promoted:

**Integrated, Co-located and/or Coordinated Systems of Care:** The Endowment has supported and participated in projects that:

- Explore the unique needs of special populations – children who witness domestic violence, abused and neglected children, immigrant and refugee children and families, young children, children and youth with co-occurring substance use disorders – and develop plans for better coordination of services, increased access and quality.
- Test innovative approaches to increase access and improve outcomes for particularly vulnerable and underserved populations of children, youth and families and advocate for sustainability of those promising practices.
- Seize leveraged funding opportunities to pilot system reform and implement recommendations from new New Hampshire-based research.
- Promote the use of technology as a tool to coordinate care, improve quality, and increase efficiencies.
- Plan for and develop alternative financing mechanisms through identification of national best practices, technical assistance, data collection, and analysis.
- Strengthen organizational linkages across child-serving systems through community-based planning and local solutions which better utilize and coordinate existing resources.
- Support pediatric primary care practices to integrate screening for social and emotional problems and develop sustainable business and clinical models to increase access for those children and youth who need mental health care.

**High Quality, Research-Based Interventions:** The Endowment has supported its community partners in their efforts to:

- Explore various strategies to create a sustainable infrastructure which promotes the infusion of evidence-based practices into the children's mental health delivery systems.
- Understand the workforce development challenges within the continuum of care and begin to develop solutions.
- Increase the capacity of the public mental health system to deliver evidence based trauma treatment.
- Establish a research base for an innovative community-based suicide prevention strategy.
- Promote professional development, inter-disciplinary education and practice, and educational opportunities for families through convening and conference participation.

**Strengthen Advocacy Capacity:** Through its grantmaking and non-grantmaking work, the Endowment has invested in projects that:

- Strengthen the organizational capacity of our children's mental health advocacy nonprofits and encourage collaboration through shared work.
- Add knowledge to the field and create a "roadmap" for future investment, system improvement, and policy change.
- Utilize civil legal advocacy as a tool to increase mental health access for individual children and youth involved in the juvenile justice system, as well as identify systemic and policy barriers.
- Research and disseminate report findings to increase awareness, generate momentum for needed budgetary and policy changes, and to educate policymakers.

## Current funding interests:

The Endowment will entertain requests for all types of grants in this theme, prioritizing those that address at least one of the three outcomes. The foundation hopes to:

- Institutionalize pilot demonstration projects that have improved outcomes for children and youth with mental health problems.
- Support new projects that have potential to be sustainable and transformative to the children's mental health delivery system. Addressing mental health disparities and gaps in access for vulnerable and underserved populations is a priority for the Endowment.
- Continue to support all types of advocacy and public policy efforts within our limitations as a private foundation. This includes enhancing the organizational capacity of our children's mental health advocacy organizations.

The Program Director for the Mental Health of New Hampshire's Children and Their Families theme is Kim Firth at [kfirth@endowmentforhealth.org](mailto:kfirth@endowmentforhealth.org) or (603) 228-2448, Endowment for Health, 14 South St., Concord, NH 03301. A listing of the Endowment Children's Mental Health grants is available at [www.endowmentforhealth.org](http://www.endowmentforhealth.org)