

The National Council for Behavioral Health is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for the **2018-2019 Trauma-Sensitive Schools Learning Community**. This one-of-a-kind opportunity connects leadership from schools from across the nation as they implement, sustain and spread trauma-sensitive approaches to promote a fundamental change in education culture.

Throughout this year-long initiative, National Council trauma experts will help you develop and implement a trauma-sensitive plan to:

- Develop and sustain a trauma-sensitive and responsive school staff.
- Infuse trauma-sensitive procedures in all student intake and assessments processes.
- Increase engagement and involvement of students and families.
- Implement emerging and evidence-based trauma-sensitive school practices.
- Create physically- and psychologically-safe environments that promote learning for all students.
- Engage and build trauma-informed community partnerships.
- Address secondary traumatic stress and compassion fatigue among staff.
- Develop tools to support organizational wellness.
- Track, analyze and use data to sustain continuous quality improvement.

Learning Community benefits include:

- Two in-person meetings in Dallas:
 - July 26 & 27, 2018 - Kickoff Meeting at Metro Care in Dallas.
 - July 2019 - Summit Meeting to share successes, challenges and plan for after the end of the Learning Community
- Consultation and technical assistance from national experts (virtual and in-person) around multiple topics, including:
 - Understanding the impact and prevalence of trauma on learning and life.
 - Adopting a growth mindset and trauma-sensitive lens in the school setting.
 - Infusing trauma-sensitive principles into discipline approaches.
 - Teaching and supporting emotional and behavioral regulation.
 - Creating safe and calming school environments.
 - Focusing on staff self-care needs to build a resilient work force.
- Self-assessment of your school/organization to guide your plan.
- Tools to implement organizational change.
- Identification of outcomes, including performance indicators and tracking tools.
- Access to a National Trauma-Informed Listserv, including the National Council trauma experts and past Learning Community members.

The cost to participate in the Learning Community is \$7,500.

Expectations for Participation

Schools participating in the Learning Community will be expected to:

- **Ensure executive leadership sponsorship and support:** District and school leadership must endorse participation in the Learning Community, promote organizational buy-in and connect with and support internal champions to make on-the-ground changes
- **Develop a Core Implementation Team (CIT):** Identify between five to twelve members willing and able to commit adequate time, energy and enthusiasm to participate in and lead the initiative. The following roles are ideally represented on a CIT:
 - School and/or district leadership
 - School and/or district student support staff
 - Teacher
 - Data lead
 - Student or parent representative
 - Community partner representative
 - Optional non-certified staff representative
- **Attend Two In-person meetings:** At least two CIT members must represent their school or district for the Kickoff Meeting in July 2018. At least one CIT member must attend the final Summit Meeting in July 2019.
- **Utilize the Learning Community Model of Continuous Quality Improvement:** Using established self-assessments and performance monitoring processes, work with National Council faculty to identify and define challenges, generate solutions, implement these solutions and evaluate the outcomes.
- **Engage in technical assistance activities:** These activities include coaching calls and webinars.

Selection and Notification of Applicants

The National Council will select participants through a competitive application process. Notice of selection will be provided by **May 25, 2018**.

Financial Information

Selected organizations must agree to submit \$7,500 payment prior to initiation of the Learning Community to support technical assistance and training. Travel and lodging for the in-person meetings will be the responsibility of each organization participating in the Learning Community.

Important Deadlines & Events:

February 28, 2018, 3-4 p.m. ET: [Informational Webinar](#) (webinar recording link will be available for those who cannot attend)

May 4, 2018: Application deadline

May 25, 2018: Applicants notified about selection

June 25, 2018: Payment of \$7,500 due

June 27, 2018: Kickoff webinar for learning community participants

July 26-27, 2018: Two-day In-person Kickoff Meeting in Dallas

Your application must be submitted online [here](#). You can access a PDF of the application and other Learning Community materials [here](#).

If you have questions about the application process please contact Sharday Lewis at ShardayL@TheNationalCouncil.org.