



## MI SCHOOL THERAPIST

PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

### 2023-2024 Michigan High School Request for Mental Health Clinician Placement

#### Timeline:

Request for Proposals Available:	May 1, 2023
Application Deadline:	June 30, 2023
Initial High School Partnership Announced:	August 15, 2023
Clinician Candidate Interviews:	Spring/Summer 2023
Program Begins:	August 20, 2023
Program Ends:	June 16, 2024

### **Why Mental Health Education, Intervention and Treatment in School?**

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST, partners with area schools to implement a school-based mental health support program that will provide psychotherapy treatment within the school system. The program is designed to provide equitable access to mental health treatment in school for all students, especially minority and the socioeconomically disadvantaged student populations. The assigned clinician will meet students in the comfort of their school environment. This will lead to greater success in maintaining consistent clinical contact and achieving higher outcomes. Additionally, providing mental health services within the school building during the school day removes traditional barriers to mental health services such as lack of transportation, lack of technology access, cultural and parental bias. It also allows systems to work in collaboration to address the complex relationship between social-emotional, mental health issues, negative academic investment and performance.

In Michigan, schools do not have an identified staff member whose sole purpose is to address the mental health needs of students. Most districts look to school counselors and social workers to support execute this work. The student-to-counselor ratio exceeds 700:1, leaving high schools unable to provide intensive group or one-to-one mental health support. High School students, especially in the post COVID-19 pandemic era, need support understanding and addressing behavioral health concerns that challenge their ability to function relationally and/or academically. We believe that well-trained educators (teachers, administrators, school counselors and social workers) are the best method of identifying students who struggle with mental health challenges. Where educators are overstretched, MI SCHOOL THERAPIST clinicians serve in the school as capacity-builders, interventionists, treatment delivery and as a support in partnership with educators.

13 N. Washington Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
[Mischooltherapist.org](http://Mischooltherapist.org)



## MI SCHOOL THERAPIST

PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

### MI SCHOOL THERAPIST Clinicians

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST will embed well-trained, dedicated mental health clinicians in schools that serve significant numbers of *low-income, underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged student populations*. Clinicians will provide evidence and trauma focused - psychoeducation, intervention and treatment services to students. After an intensive orientation and training, clinicians are prepared to educate and support students on how to successfully understand and navigate mental health challenges and concerns. These clinicians serve as experts and guides to the students they serve in partnership with school counselors and social workers where they exist.

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST asks high school partners to commit to participating in the program for a minimum of three academic years (2023-24; 2024-25 and 2025-26). At the end of three years, the school will work with MI SCHOOL THERAPIST to assess options to continue in the program. MI SCHOOL THERAPIST cost share is 20,000 for Year 1, 25,000 for Year 2 and 30,000 for Year 3. You can learn more about MI SCHOOL THERAPIST at [mischooltherapist.org](https://mischooltherapist.org).

All clinicians will possess the following –

- Master's degree in Social Work or Psychology, Counseling or Counseling Psychology
- Licensed in the State of Michigan as a licensed or limited licensed master social worker, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, or psychologist
- Specialized training and at least one year of experience in the examination, evaluation, and treatment of minors and their families
- Possession of a valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation for job related use
- Training in and experience with providing evidence-based practices.
- Ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment and skills and capabilities of bridging language/cultural barriers to MI SCHOOL THERAPIST Services within diverse communities.

All clinicians responsibility shall include the following –

- Perform face-to-face clinical evaluations including formal mental status examinations
- Complete all required assessment tools and documentation to support initial and on-going care authorizations
- Facilitates person-centered treatment planning that integrates physical and behavioral health needs

13 N. Washington Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
[Mischooltherapist.org](https://mischooltherapist.org)



## MI SCHOOL THERAPIST

PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

- Demonstrate understanding and application of evidence-based practice and cultural responsiveness.
- Demonstrate strong DSM V diagnostic skills
- Demonstrate ability to work with students with serious emotional disturbance, mild to moderate behavioral health needs, and substance use disorders
- Demonstrate understanding of the interaction between primary and behavioral health conditions, including risks related to social determinants of health
- Effectively communicate and collaborate with a multidisciplinary team of school staff including administration, counseling and teaching.
- Complete all documentation within designated timeframes
- Provide effective crisis intervention and referral services to students and families
- Participate in projects utilizing the project management framework as assigned
- Compliance with organizational policies and procedures for the assigned school district as well as MI SCHOOL THERAPIST, including code of conduct and attendance policy; and policies resulting from the HIPAA privacy rules regarding individually identifiable health information concerning individuals served or employed by MI SCHOOL THERAPIST.

### **Funding and Administration**

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST has secured investment commitment from leading funding partners to sustain the program over multiple years. By assembling multiple funding sources, this program does not cause financial strain on any one organization. The total cost to MI SCHOOL THERAPIST of placing one clinician in a school for one year is around 80,000. **Successful applicant schools, a local philanthropic partner or other entity must provide a cash match to contribute to a portion of this cost.** MI SCHOOL THERAPIST will administer the program by employing and training the clinicians and providing program oversight and management.

### **School Partnership Expectations**

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST is seeking response from high school leadership (administrators, social workers and counselors) who are committed to supporting a dedicated, full-time clinician in their building and positively impacting the relational and academic functioning of students through a systematic approach. Interested high schools are asked to complete this application online, commit to program expectations and attach letters of support (included).

13 N. Washington Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Mischooltherapist.org



## MI SCHOOL THERAPIST

PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST annual cost share requirement:

Year 1	20,000
Year 2	25,000
Year 3	30,000

These funds can be provided by district and non-district sources, including but not limited to: a community foundation, an intermediate school district, a United Way, a family foundation, a corporation or business, a local, the state or federal government, or any combination. Match funding must be secured by the high school.

### **Award process**

High schools will be selected through a competitive selection process. Final decisions regarding selection will be based on the information provided in your application, the school's acceptance of and willingness to actively support the partnership as demonstrated to the letters of support provided and level of demonstrated need communicated in the proposal and through available data.

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST'S mission is to improve the relational and academic functioning of children by providing equitable access to mental health services in schools. The vision is to provide schools with mental health therapists to support the needs of all students through psychoeducation, intervention and treatment services. When we promote positive mental health, we help students improve their health and well-being, have positive self-esteem, and become valued and contributing members of their communities. Mental health promotion also helps build resiliency in students, helping them cope better during life's challenges. MI SCHOOL THERAPIST works to remove barriers and ensure students in Michigan have the opportunity to access mental health services.

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST believes:

- The right to health is a fundamental part of our human rights and of our understanding of a life of dignity.
- Every student has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- Mentally healthy students are more likely to go to school ready to learn.
- Mentally healthy students actively engage in school activities.

13 N. Washington Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
[Mischooltherapist.org](http://Mischooltherapist.org)



## MI SCHOOL THERAPIST

PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

- Mentally healthy students have supportive and caring connections with adults and young people.
- Mentally healthy students use appropriate problem-solving skills.
- Mentally healthy students have nonaggressive behaviors.
- Mentally healthy students add to positive school culture.

MI SCHOOL THERAPIST seeks proposals that align to its mission, vision and beliefs as articulated above.

For more information, contact DaShawn Wallace, MI SCHOOL THERAPIST, Chief Executive Officer at [dashawnw@mischooltherapist.org](mailto:dashawnw@mischooltherapist.org).

Applications are to be completed online <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp-vsGQ3t5PnFupAEH4B6FU33dEJfyIIESLCt4gZUNnqdgTg/viewform?usp=sharing>

13 N. Washington Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
[Mischooltherapist.org](http://Mischooltherapist.org)