January 14, 2019

TO: AAP Chapter Presidents
AAP Chapter Vice President
AAP Chapter Executive Directors

FROM: AAP State Advocacy

RE: HRSA Grants to States to Improve Access to Children’s Mental Health Services

In September 2018, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded 18 states (AL, AK, CO, DE, IA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NC, ND, RI, VA, WI) a total of $7.9 million through the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program with the goal of integrating behavioral health into pediatric primary care using telehealth care. HRSA has now opened this grant opportunity to 3 additional states to apply to this program. A total of $1.3 million per year for 4 years is available.

While chapters are not eligible applicants for this grant opportunity, we encourage AAP chapters to reach out to relevant state agencies to encourage them to apply and to serve as resources for the development of the application and program. In the previous award announcement state health, human services, or behavioral and mental health agencies were designated as grantee organizations. As experts in pediatric health, these grants can provide opportunities for you to work to improve access to mental health services for children and families while supporting the medical home.

To see the full Notice of Funding Opportunity, click on this link, then click “Package” then “Preview” then “Download Instructions”. Applications are due to HRSA by March 11, 2019.

The AAP has resources on related topics that you may find useful in this work:

- AAP Policy Statement | Addressing Early Childhood Emotional and Behavioral Health
- AAP Policy Statement | The Use of Telemedicine to Address Access and Physician Workforce Shortages
- AAP Clinical Report | Incorporating Recognition and Management of Perinatal and Postpartum Depression Into Pediatric Practice

You can see how other AAP chapters have worked with state agencies and other advocates to establish and implement statewide pediatric psychiatry access programs to increase access to mental health services for children:

- AAP Massachusetts Chapter | Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program
- AAP New Jersey | Pediatric Psychiatry Collaborative