

Abstract

The Flint Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma Program (ReCAST) is designed to promote resilience in the Flint community by assisting high risk youth and families, mitigating the impact of trauma, reducing behavioral health disparities and increasing the opportunities and training for Flint youth through strong community engagement strategies. These efforts will leverage available cross agency strategic planning and evidence based trauma informed behavioral health activities. The target population addressed by this project are high risk youth and their families impacted by the Flint Water Emergency (FWE). Poverty, exposure to violence and trauma, decreased educational and employment opportunities all contribute to the risks facing youth and their families. Estimates based on the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 census would identify approximately 34844 individuals aged 0-21 years eligible for service through this grant opportunity. Demographics are further quantified as 56.6 percent Black or African American, 37.4 percent White, 5% Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race) and less than 1% American Indian, Alaska Native and Asian. 6.6% are two or more races and a significant number of Flint residents are also Deaf or Hard of Hearing requiring additional targeted resources. A two year longitudinal study of at risk youth conducted at Hurley Hospital Emergency Department (level 1 trauma center) found that 52% of youth had at least one firearm violence (victimization or perpetration) encounter. This ReCAST project includes organizing partnerships to empower the Flint community to support at risk youth and families in developing resilience, reducing violence, building strong families and community. Goals will use a community based participatory approach by developing and implementing a strategic plan that builds partnerships and awareness of issues faced by high risk youth and their families identified through a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Process. Evidence based trauma informed interventions will develop a common service philosophy utilizing Skills for Psychological Recovery accessed by all agencies providing services and resources. All high risk youth and their families who live in, attend school or work in the City of Flint will be eligible to be served throughout the project. It is anticipated that the scope of this project will target 1,000 high risk youth each year through the 5 year project period. It should be noted that these numbers should increase as definitive planning by community partners is further refined and activities to leverage established services are incorporated from the ReCAST. Finally, a Public Mental Health Leadership Academy will be developed as part of the ReCAST project. This Academy will build on the history of engagement activities held in Flint to solicit and amplify the voice of Flint residents, strengthen the resilience of at risk youth and their families while building improved behavioral health professional and community capacity and resources that will provide legacy support going forward.

The project aims are:

- **Aim 1:** Build on an extensive range of local programs and partnerships to empower the Flint community to support at-risk youth and families in developing resilience, reducing violence, and developing a vibrant community in Year 1.
- **Aim 2:** Use trauma-informed evidence based programming to mitigate potential behavioral health impacts of the FWE on Flint youth and families.
- **Aim 3:** Integrate the several evidence-based violence prevention programming to enhance ongoing community-organization led activities to divert high-risk youth from the school to prison pipeline.
- **Aim 4:** Create a trauma informed 1st responder community by providing trauma training to local police, first responders, correction officers, etc.
- **Aim 5:** Increase capacity for youth and families in the Flint community- to support skill building and career opportunities to implement evidenced-based programs such as YES, Public Mental Health Leadership Academy, Fathers & Sons, and others as developed or identified by the local community advisory board (CAB) that will be developed as part of this funding