

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2020

Tracey Trautman
Acting Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance – Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Acting Director Trautman:

I write in support of the application submitted by the City of Franklin School District for funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence Grant Program. The City will use funds from the U.S. Department of Justice to continue its progress to address student mental health crises and work with community partners to foster supportive emotional environments in Franklin's schools.

The City of Franklin experiences higher-than-average levels of poverty and all of its related disadvantages, including substance use issues and an increased risk of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. To cope with these issues, the Franklin School District created the Office of School Wellness to oversee the social emotional learning of students and equip teachers with the skills to recognize and respond to trauma. It has provided interventions at the universal, targeted, and individual levels with the understanding that prevention is an important tool in stopping school violence. The Office of School Wellness also formed a Community Management Team comprised of state and city officials, clergy, local non-profits and service providers who are concerned about the well-being of Franklin's youth and eager to do what they can to help.

With support from BJA, the Franklin School District will build on its successes and its efforts to serve youth and families most at risk. The District's progress was made possible by a System of Care grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; however, this funding will end in September 2020. Further assistance is needed to continue to educate youth, train school personnel, enrich community partnerships, develop intervention methods and improve services available to students in need. These efforts will help to prevent violence in our schools and improve the well-being of all students in Franklin.

I support the application from the City of Franklin and urge your serious consideration of its worthy proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator