

OPTIMISE RECOMMENDATION 1: EXPAND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM OPTIONS THROUGH NEW PROGRAMS OR VIRTUAL EXPANSION

PROBLEM



- MI has only 5 School Psychology programs statewide with 0 options North of M-20.
- MI has Psych: Student ration of 1:1,445.
- NASP Recommendation: 1:500.
- Starting or expanding programs requires a significant initial financial investment.

HOW DOES MI COMPARE?



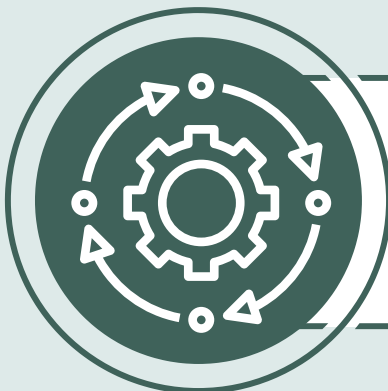
- OH has 10 School Psychology programs with more equal distribution across the state geographically.
- OH has Psych: Student ratio of 1:840, much closer to the NASP recommendation of 1:500.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



- \$5 million (for up to 5 universities) to create new in person programs/expand existing programs to include virtual options, funds to be split across 2-3 fiscal years.
- 3/5 current programs expressed interest in expansion.
- 3 additional universities have interest in a new program.
- 15,000 for MDE/other agency for oversight/management.

PROCESS & OUTCOMES



- Universities would apply for funds through MDE.
- They would initiate and implement new programs or expand existing programs with virtual options.
- We would experience an increase in enrolled graduate students, increase in MDE certified School Psychologists, fewer vacancies, & improvement in Psych:Student ratios.

OPTIMISE RECOMMENDATION 2: ADVISORY PANEL TO STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SMART) PROGRAM & CONTINUED SMART FUNDING

PROBLEM



- Graduate school is costly and students are reluctant to take on this expense.
- Coursework along with field experience requirements make it difficult for students to have time in their schedule for a part time job to balance the expenses.

GREAT FIRST STEPS



- SMART funding provides paid field experiences for School Psychology, School Social Work, & School Counseling graduate students at \$ 25/hr for up to 600 hours or \$ 15,000/yr to offset expenses.
- \$ 500,000 to MDE to hire 1 staff member to administer the program.

WHAT LIES AHEAD



- SMART funding is limited in duration with a \$15 million investment for FY 23-24. While carryover is allowed there is a project end date of 2027.
- A limited time program will not resolve our current shortage issues long term.
- Dedicated staff oversight is critical but continued input from the field is also critical to the program's success.

STEPS FOR LONG TERM SUCCESS



- Investment that extends beyond 2027 to ensure ongoing funding for these paid work experiences.
- Create an advisory board to collaborate with the MDE staff member in ensuring program integrity. The board should include representatives from the named mental health professions as well as ISDs.