ACEs Projects
Funded for FY22

Advancing Healing: Advance Memphis
Memphis

Advance Memphis, a nonprofit focused on job readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training, has begun to learn about trauma and trauma-informed practices. Through a partnership with ACCESS Consulting, we seek to deepen our knowledge of trauma and further improve our practices and policies. Advancing Healing will provide a framework for developing our staff and organization to better serve our participants by following a plan devised to fit our specific South Memphis community and our specific mission, helping our students achieve and maintain economic security. The plan will include listening to stakeholders, equipping staff and volunteers with customized training, forming ongoing support structures to deepen and apply learnings, creating policies and procedures to sustain long-term TIC in the organization. Through this project, we hope to grow from a trauma-sensitive organization to a fully trauma-informed organization, to create a model for other workforce development organizations, and to improve outcomes for our students, their families, and the entire community.

ETSU: Strong Brain Institute
Johnson City

In this project, *Creating a Culture of Resilience: Training Educators to Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*, we will provide ACEs-informed and responsive educator preparation personnel and teacher candidates with the tools to establish optimally efficacious (i.e., safe, stable, and nurturing) workspaces and learning environments for themselves and rural K-12 students. This project has 3 main components: training, coaching, and assessment. Introducing an ACEs-informed curriculum into a standard teacher candidate curriculum and partnering with those key stakeholders responsible for implementing and maintaining education curricula, can help ensure that early career teachers view their world through an ACEs-informed lens and become compassionate educators and contributors to their schools and larger communities.

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Loudon County Schools
Loudon County

Loudon County Schools will partner with the Health Dept., Align9 Prevention Alliance, and the Sheriff's Dept. to increase awareness and understanding of ACES and the negative impact they have on individuals and the community. The evidence-based program Second Step will be provided to the schools, parent training, and workshops will be offered, a multi-media campaign and a resource directory will be developed and implemented. TN's Building a Trauma-Informed System of Care toolkit will be utilized. Teacher and family anti-ACEs toolboxes will be provided through this grant.

Building Resiliency in East Tennessee: Metro Drug Coalition
Knoxville

Metro Drug Coalition is poised to develop an academic detailing program for ACEs training and implementation in pediatric primary care practices. The state of California has developed a toolkit for practitioners that provides the rationale, questionnaires, and clinic workflow suggestions to establish a protocol that is simple and provides some reimbursement through Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program). We propose to develop a similar toolkit for healthcare providers to assess our targeted population, children, ages 1-12, and teens, ages 13-19. It is imperative to identify the ACEs for children as early as possible for all children because of the effects that overactive stress has on the development of their brains and bodies. The lasting impact of ACEs on children's emotional and physical wellbeing shortens their life expectancy and quality of life. Prevention education is the key for pediatric health care professionals to refine their approach to identifying the risk factors and intervention resources to reduce childhood adversity. Prevention and intervention of ACEs will become an essential component of the patients' care and follow-up. By identifying ACEs as early in the developing child as possible, mitigation strategies can assist families in getting the services they may need to build resiliency in their children as well as providing support for parents who may be exhibiting the negative impact of their own history of traumatic events. This approach is going to be imperative to mitigate and reduce the transmission of intergenerational trauma

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Nurture TN: Nurture the Next Nashville

Nurture TN is a parent education and support program for vulnerable, prenatal, and new mothers. Enrolled mothers are matched with volunteer mentors who are themselves mothers and receive parenting education, support, and resource referrals through an interactive text communications platform.

Creating Supportive School and Community Environments: STEP, Inc. Haywood County

This project addresses the unique need that exists for families, school resource officers, school safety teams, school administrators, and the community to understand the impact officers in schools have on the lives of children and youth, specifically those with disabilities. Through training and skill-building, participants will gain an understanding of the role of school resource officers in schools, and the need to promote positive interactions. Additionally, families will be provided information on the role of school resource officers and how to share information about their children to lead to students being provided effective supports on the school campus. Finally, the community will be engaged in positive messaging and outreach to be supportive of the schools and families in their communities, with a focus on families of children with disabilities and youth who have been dually impacted by disability and ACEs.