

# **Playing Nicely in the Sandbox: Integrating Mental Health and Education Agendas**

---

Grantmakers In Health

March 8, 2012





# How do schools differ from health institutions?





# Health & Education: Two child-serving systems with different drivers

- ✓ Target populations
- ✓ Entitlements
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Mission/Priorities
- ✓ Language
- ✓ Culture





# Opportunities.....Challenges

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

- Mental Health Parity
  - Prevention Fund
- CMS Innovation Center
- State MH and SA Block Grants

## EDUCATION REFORM

- Reauthorization of ESEA
- Dept of Ed Signature Programs

# How funders can help

---

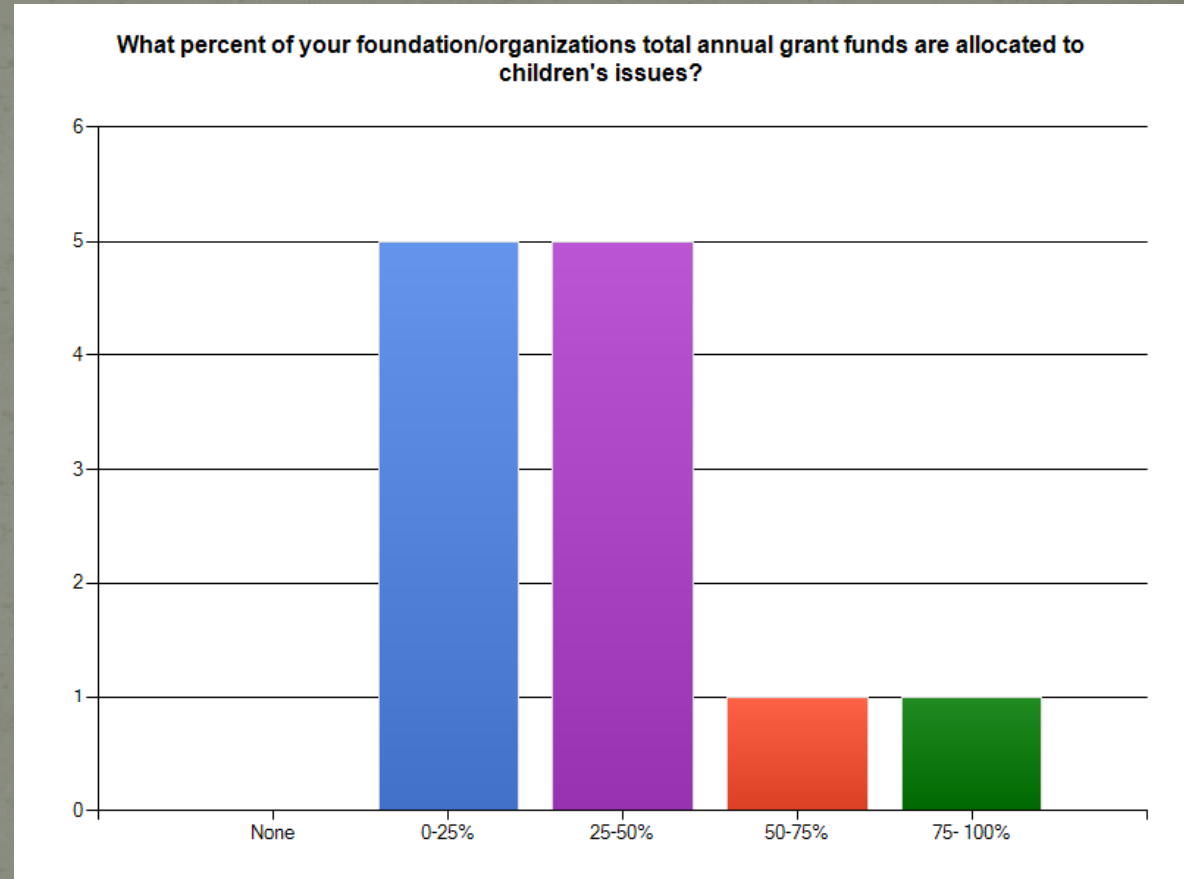
Grantmakers In Health

March 8, 2012



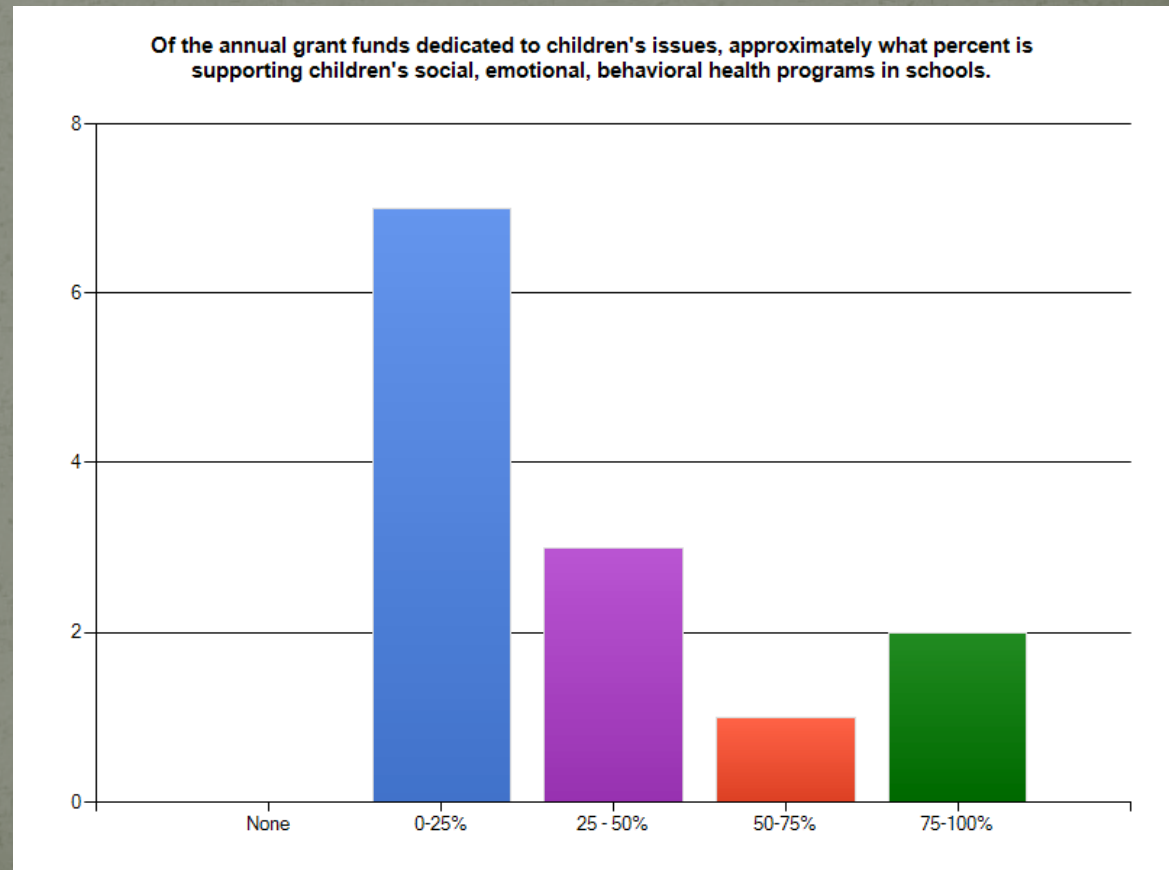
# % of Annual Fund Allocated to Children's Issues?

- 0-25% - 5
- 25-50% - 5
- 50 - 75% - 1
- 75-100% - 1



# Of Child Funds, % Dedicated to Supporting Social/Emotional/Behavioral Health in Schools?

- 0-25% - 7
- 25-50% - 3
- 50-75% - 1
- 75-100% - 2





# What is being funded?

- School based mental health services
- School based health centers
- Early childhood programs
- Technical assistance and training
- Universal school based prevention programs
- Social/emotional learning programs
- Public policy and advocacy





# What lessons have been learned?

- Most often cited was the challenges faced when working in schools
  - Integration into school environment
  - Need for buy-in from leadership and staff
  - Need for flexibility
  - Acknowledge differences in providers from different fields





# More Lessons....

- Evaluation is important
  - Difficulty with tying outcomes to interventions
- Sustainability
  - Need funds over several years before meaningful change is seen
  - “don’t pay it all, it won’t be sustained”
  - “don’t isolate funding for the very emotionally troubled part of the student spectrum”
  - Billing is critical – “hard to run forever on grants/charitable gifts”





# What advice do they have to offer?

- “takes a lot of social and financial capital to do it well”
- Include policy and evaluation from the start
- Get school buy in and clarity of focus from the beginning
- Ongoing support, technical assistance and learning opportunities are important to success
- Don’t just fund services without investing in sustainability
- Make sure outside organizations understand the complexity of working in the school environment

**Always listen to good advice...**

