

# National Institute of Mental Health Outreach Partnership Program

## *Update*

November 15, 2009

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<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml>

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Mental Health  
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison**

## **Science and Service News Updates**

### **NIH Encourages Depressed Moms to Seek Treatment for Themselves**

An NIH Challenge grant was awarded on behalf of NIMH to Judy Garber, Ph.D., of Vanderbilt University, to develop and test a method encouraging depressed mothers to follow treatment recommendations. For this study, Garber is recruiting 200 mothers of children receiving psychiatric treatment at a community mental health center. All study participants will receive a referral for treatment and an information pamphlet describing the symptoms of depression and anxiety, possible effects of depression on children, and different types of treatments. Randomly assigned participants will also receive a brief, one-session Enhanced Motivation Intervention (EMI). EMI uses special interviewing techniques to identify and resolve a person's concerns about and practical barriers to treatment.

Science Update: [http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/nih-encourages-depressed-moms-to-  
seek-treatment-for-themselves.shtml](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/nih-encourages-depressed-moms-to-seek-treatment-for-themselves.shtml)

### **NIMH Recovery Act Grant Aims to Teach Kids with Autism How to Better Express Themselves: Computer-based Training in Creating and Responding to Facial Expressions May Improve Social Interactions**

Most children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) seem to have trouble engaging in everyday social interactions. They may seem to have no reaction to other people or may respond atypically when others show anger or affection. Their own facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language may not match what they are saying, making it difficult for others to respond appropriately. Such barriers to communication can isolate children with ASD from their peers. To help overcome these barriers, NIH awarded a Challenge grant on behalf of NIMH to support the development of a new training program that incorporates two existing computer programs. One program, called Let's Face It!, helps children with ASD recognize facial expressions of others and understand the corresponding emotions. The other program, called the Computer Expression Recognition Toolbox, detects a user's facial expression in real-time, based on 37 different facial expression dimensions (for example, widening one's eyes, raising the inner or outer corners of one's eyebrows, wrinkling one's nose, etc.) and their intensity.

Science Update: [http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/recovery-act-grant-aims-to-teach-  
kids-with-autism-how-to-better-express-themselves.shtml](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/recovery-act-grant-aims-to-teach-kids-with-autism-how-to-better-express-themselves.shtml)

### **NIMH Seeks More BRAINS: Research Awards Support Creative Projects by Early Career Scientists**

NIMH is seeking more "BRAINS" for 2010 by offering a second round of Biobehavioral Research Awards for Innovative New Scientists (BRAINS). The program calls for innovative and groundbreaking research projects from early career investigators to explore the complex mechanisms underlying mental disorders or novel treatments and prevention strategies. Proposed projects should address research priorities and gap areas identified in the NIMH Strategic Plan. Researchers interested in applying for these awards must submit their applications by December 9, 2009.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/nimh-seeks-more-brains.shtml>

**NIH Awards More than 50 Grants to Boost Search for Causes, Improve Treatments for Autism: Recovery Act Funds Support Strategic Goals for Autism Research**

NIH awarded more than 50 autism research grants, totaling more than \$65 million, which will be supported with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds. These grants are the result of the largest funding opportunity for research on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to date, announced in March 2009. Awards were based on the quality of the proposed study and how well it addressed short-term research objectives detailed in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/nih-awards-more-than-50-grants-to-boost-search-for-causes-improve-treatments-for-autism.shtml>

**NIMH: Kids' Brain Development Charted as They Grow Up: First MRI Data Release on Young Children, Brain Chemistry**

A landmark, multisite NIH-funded neuroimaging study of brain development in healthy, normally-developing children has posted its third release of data. This is the first release from the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) study to include data from very young children — birth to 4 years old — and snapshots of brain chemistry at key developmental milestones. The data is accessible to qualified researchers via the NIH Pediatric MRI Data Repository website.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/kids-brain-development-charted-as-they-grow-up.shtml>

**NIMH: Clinical Tests Begin on Medication to Correct Fragile X Defect**

NIH-supported scientists at Seaside Therapeutics in Cambridge, Mass., are beginning a clinical trial of a potential medication designed to correct a central neurochemical defect underlying Fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited cause of intellectual disability. There has to date been no medication that could alter the disorder's neurologic abnormalities. The study will evaluate safety, tolerability, and optimal dosage in healthy volunteers. The work is the outcome of basic research that traced how an error in the Fragile X mental retardation gene (FMR1) leads to changes in brain connections, called synapses. The changes in turn appear to be the mechanism for learning deficits in Fragile X syndrome. The new trial tests Seaside Therapeutics' novel compound, STX107, that selectively and potently targets the synaptic defect.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/clinical-tests-begin-on-medication-to-correct-fragile-x-defect.shtml>

**NIH Announces First National Research Study Recruitment Registry: Nationwide Registry to "Match" Volunteers with Researchers**

Individuals who want to participate in research studies now can connect online with researchers nationwide through the first disease-neutral, volunteer recruitment registry. ResearchMatch.org is a not-for-profit secure Web site, designed to provide people who are interested in participating in research the opportunity to be matched with studies that may be the right fit for them.

ResearchMatch.org offers an easy-to-use, free and safe way for volunteers to connect with thousands of scientists who are conducting research on a wide range of diseases. The site is a collaborative effort of the national network of medical research institutions affiliated with the Clinical and Translational Science Awards, which is led by NIH's National Center for Research Resources.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2009/ncrr-10.htm>

**NIH Researchers Identify Gene Mutations Underlying Risk for Most Common Form of Parkinson's Disease: International Study Reveals Common Gene Variants in People of European Descent**

Two genes containing mutations known to cause rare familial forms of parkinsonism are also associated with the more common, sporadic form of the disease where there is no family history, researchers have found. The finding came in the largest genome-wide association study (GWAS) reported to date involving Parkinson's disease. GWAS studies look in the DNA on all of the chromosomes in a specific population of individuals for common genetic associations with a disease. To date, such studies have been done on relatively small numbers of samples and have not been able to identify genetic variations of smaller effect in Parkinson's disease. But now, GWAS studies in very large sample sets are able to identify these elusive genetic variations.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2009/nia-16.htm>

**SAMHSA: New Reports Highlight Important Gender Differences in Substance Use and Mental Health for Adolescents in Each State and the District of Columbia**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has developed 52 new short reports providing key information about the level of substance use and mental health problems and treatment among adolescents in each state, the District of Columbia and for the country as a whole. The reports provide first-of-its-kind, state-by-state breakdowns by gender on substance abuse and mental health problems experienced by adolescents. In addition, the reports provide data on adolescent treatment facilities and admission factors for each state, the District of Columbia and for the country as a whole.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0911121635.aspx>

Reports: <http://samhsa.gov/statesinbrief/>

**SAMHSA: New Report Shows that the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative Can Reduce Violence and Promote Safer Schools**

In the wake of several recent, highly-publicized stories about violence among school-aged children, a new report shows that school districts participating in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative substantially improved the safety of their students. According to the SAMHSA report, over a three-year period, school districts participating in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant program reported fewer students involved in violent incidents, decreased levels of experienced and witnessed violence, and improvements in overall school safety and violence prevention.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0911033535.aspx>

## **Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources**

### **Coping with Traumatic Events: Updates from NIMH**

*NIMH Director's Statement on Tragedy at Fort Hood*

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/index.shtml>

*Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Service Members: A Partnership Between NIMH and the U.S. Army*

The Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Service members (Army STARRS) is the largest study of suicide and mental health among military personnel ever undertaken. Army STARRS will identify — as rapidly as possible — modifiable risk and protective factors related to mental health and suicide. It also will support the Army's ongoing efforts to prevent suicide and improve soldiers' overall wellbeing.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/suicide-prevention-studies/army-study-to-assess-risk-and-resilience-in-service-members-army-starrs-a-partnership-between-nimh-and-the-us-army.shtml>

*Vodcast Discussion on Trauma*

This vodcast focuses on NIMH research in the areas of traumatic stress reactions and specifically mental health issues among U.S. service members. What is learned from the military experience can help in the understanding of stress risk predictions for the entire population.

[http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/coping-with-traumatic-events/index.shtml#video\\_wrapper\\_61285](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/coping-with-traumatic-events/index.shtml#video_wrapper_61285)

### **New Resources on NIMH Website**

*Neuroimaging and Mental Illness: A Window Into the Brain*

Researchers use brain scans to study brain development in healthy people and people with illnesses. This publication answers frequently asked questions about what brain scans can and cannot do related to diagnosing mental illnesses.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/neuroimaging-and-mental-illness-a-window-into-the-brain/neuroimaging-and-mental-illness-a-window-into-the-brain.shtml>

*Brain Stimulation Therapies: What are brain stimulation therapies?*

Brain stimulation therapies involve activating or touching the brain directly with electricity, magnets, or implants to treat depression and other disorders. This online fact sheet describes electroconvulsive therapy, magnetic seizure therapy, and deep brain stimulation.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/brain-stimulation-therapies/brain-stimulation-therapies.shtml>

*Using Electrophysiological Methods to Understand Neural Mechanisms of, and Treatment Effects in, Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents*

This workshop examined the use of EEG/MEG to understand brain mechanisms of mental disorders in children and adolescents. Participants discussed the advantages of these methods, the limitations, and future directions.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/scientific-meetings/2009/electrophysiological-tools-to-study-brain-mechanisms-of-mental-illness.shtml>

*Inside NIMH: Funding News for Current and Future NIMH Awardees*

This edition of the “Inside NIMH” newsletter discusses initiatives that the Institute is now supporting using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as important NIH-wide and NIMH-specific updates.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/newsletter/2009-november-inside-nimh.html>

**NIH Research Matters: Antipsychotics May Increase Weight in Youth**

Children and teens taking second-generation antipsychotic medications had rapid and significant weight gain, as well as troublesome changes to cholesterol levels and other metabolic measures, a new study reports. The researchers urge that the potential risks and benefits of these medications be carefully assessed and monitored in youth.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/november2009/11022009weight.htm>

**NIDA: New Substance Abuse Resources to Help Fill Gaps in Medical Education**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) released new teaching tools through its Centers of Excellence for Physician Information Program that provide scientifically-accurate information on substance abuse, addiction and its consequences to help meet the educational needs of medical students, residents and medical school faculty. The first seven curriculum resources include lectures, problem-based case studies, a faculty workshop, and a web module, any of which can be incorporated into existing medical curricula.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/coe>

**Latest NIDA Notes Available**

This issue of *NIDA Notes* provides a summary of recent NIDA-supported research findings, including the results of a promising intervention that teaches aggressive children social coping skills.

[http://www.drugabuse.gov/NIDA\\_notes/NNvol22N4/Index.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/NIDA_notes/NNvol22N4/Index.html)

**New Resources from SAMHSA**

*Latest SAMHSA News Available*

This issue features Center for Substance Abuse Treatment programs to support recovery from substance use problems.

[http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume\\_17\\_Number\\_5/Recovery\\_Hope\\_Resilience.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume_17_Number_5/Recovery_Hope_Resilience.aspx)

*Mental Health Services Provided across State Government Agencies*

This publication describes the first cooperative, multi-state project to develop and refine standard procedures and protocols to guide states in their attempts to identify mental health expenditures and resources and the number of consumers being served by agencies other than the state mental health agency.

Order online: <http://nmhicstore.samhsa.gov/publications/ordering.aspx#SMA09-4464>

*What Are Peer Recovery Support Services?*

This guide describes the types of social support that individuals in recovery from addiction can provide to others. The therapeutic value of the shared experience of addiction and recovery from addiction is explained, as well as the four types of social support that facilitate recovery and help prevent relapse.

<http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/productDetails.aspx?ProductID=18209>

*Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities Operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs*

In the most recent survey from 2007 of substance abuse treatment facilities, those facilities operated by the Veterans Administration were more likely than other facilities to offer: specially designed programs for clients with co-occurring psychological and substance abuse problems; testing services including HIV testing, TB screening, hepatitis B or C screening, and STD testing; and mental health services and HIV/AIDS education, counseling, or support.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/213/213VAFacilities2k9.cfm>

*Female Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Aged 12 to 17*

Using the 2007 Treatment Episode Data Set, this report examines the characteristics of substance abuse treatment admissions among females aged 12 to 17. In 2007, of the nearly 132,000 admissions of individuals aged 12 to 17, approximately 30 percent or slightly more than 40,000 were females.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/221/221AdFemTx2k9.htm>

**National Child Traumatic Stress Network: New Resources on Child Abuse**

*Child Physical Abuse Fact Sheet*

This fact sheet explains the prevalence and consequences of child physical abuse, and offers guidance on how to recognize and help children who are being physically abused.

[http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/ChildPhysicalAbuse\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/ChildPhysicalAbuse_Factsheet.pdf)

*Physical Punishment: What Parents Should Know*

This publication provides parents with facts on the negative impact of physical punishment, and introduces parents to effective alternatives to physically disciplining their children.

[http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/PhysicalPunishment\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/PhysicalPunishment_Factsheet.pdf)

*Raising Well-Behaved Kids: What Parents Should Know*

This fact sheet provides parents and caregivers with positive, proven techniques for changing problem behaviors and setting the tone for a peaceful and happy home.

[http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/RaisingWellBehavedKids\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/RaisingWellBehavedKids_Factsheet.pdf)

**Videos about Medicare Basics Now Available on NIHSeniorHealth**

NIHSeniorHealth.gov, the health and wellness Web site for older adults, has recently added seven short videos about Medicare coverage. The videos explain Medicare basics in simple terms and will interest caregivers and Medicare recipients alike. Topics include eligibility, enrollment, costs, and the different types of coverage available to Medicare enrollees.

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/videolist.html#medicare>

**Job Accommodation Network Introduces Interactive Veterans' Blog**

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN), a service provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, has added an interactive blog on Veterans' issues to its collection of online tools. JAN encourages employers, Veterans with disabilities and others to add to this discussion thread on Veterans' employment issues. Users can share resources, best practices, information and technical assistance regarding the employment of Veterans and returning Service Members.

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/blog/>

**CDC: Functional Difficulties Among School-Aged Children: United States, 2001–2007**

This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report presents estimates of “basic actions difficulty,” which includes difficulties related to sensory, motor, cognitive, and emotional or behavioral functioning, in U.S. children ages five to 17 years based on questions from the National Health Interview Survey. Selected estimates are shown for the educational and health care service use of children with and without basic actions difficulty.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr019.pdf>

**Calendar of Events**

**Elimination of Disparities in Mental Health Care: At the Organizational and Systems Level**

*November 19, 2009, 1:00-2:30PM ET*

The elimination of disparities in mental health care requires changes at multiple levels of service delivery. It is the decisions at the policy, executive and administrative levels that provide the vision, mission, and infrastructure to address the elimination of disparities. The Center for Mental Health Services-funded National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health is sponsoring this call, which will offer examples of successful work being done by state and local entities to address the availability, accessibility, and affordability of services as strategies to address disparities.

<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/training/78174.html>

**SAMHSA/CMHS Consumer/Survivor Boston Regional Meeting**

*December 2, 2009, Boston, Massachusetts*

SAMHSA’s Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) leads national efforts to improve mental health prevention and treatment services for all Americans. As part of its efforts, CMHS is convening this Regional Consumer/Survivor Meeting. All are invited to participate but the focus of the meeting will be on the following states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Seating is limited for the 1-day meeting and will be on a first-to-register basis.

<http://www.wciconferences.com/BostonRegional>

**The Second Annual Trauma Spectrum Disorders Conference: A Scientific Conference on the Impact of Military Service on Family and Caregivers**

*December 10, 2009, Bethesda, Maryland*

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, National Institutes of Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, and other Federal Partners present the second annual collaborative scientific conference examining recent research on trauma spectrum disorders (TSD). This year’s conference will focus on the impact of TSD on military and veteran families and caregivers across deployment, homecoming, and reintegration. The conference will examine the needs of families and caregivers in support of military and veterans with TSD, factors related to family functioning and reintegration, and effective approaches that facilitate treatment of trauma disorders and services to families and caregivers, paying particular attention to gender and health disparities. Next steps will be developed for addressing research concerns identified at the conference.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Events.aspx>

## **Calls for Public Input**

### **Input Sought for Healthy People 2020 Objectives**

Public participation is shaping Healthy People 2020, its purpose, goals, organization, and action plans. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking input on the proposed objectives for Healthy People 2020 from communities and stakeholders through public meetings across the country and public comment periods.

Comments will be accepted through December 31, 2009.

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/Comments/default.asp>

### **NIH Announcement: Consumer Health Information Request for Information (RFI)**

The NIH Office of Communication and Public Liaison and the NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives have partnered to develop a Consumer Health Information RFI in response to a Directive by President Barack Obama to all Federal agencies calling for greater transparency, public participation, and collaboration.

In conjunction with the NIH goals for public input and effective dissemination of science-based health resources and information to the public, the RFI will provide insight and better understanding of the health information needs and information-seeking behaviors of NIH health consumer audiences. Information gathered will assist the agency in developing and disseminating health, medical, and scientific information to a broader array of audiences. The RFI may be completed online in English or downloaded from the Web site in Spanish.

Response deadline: December 30, 2009

<http://nihhealthinfoRFI.nih.gov>

## **Funding Information**

### **NIH Archived Videocasts: Technical Assistance Workshops on “Building Sustainable Community-Linked Infrastructure to Enable Health Science Research”**

The archived video casts from this pre-application workshop held on October 23, 2009 are now available. The workshop provided a general overview and orientation to the purpose and requirements of NIH Request for Applications OD-09-010, Building Sustainable Community-Linked Infrastructure to Enable Health Science Research (RC4).

The videos are at <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp?c=4>

Scroll down to:

- Pre-Application Workshop on RFA OD-09-010, Building Community Research Infrastructure (Morning Session)
- Pre-Application Workshop on RFA OD-09-010, Building Community Research Infrastructure (Afternoon Session)

**SAMHSA is Accepting Applications for More than \$39.6 Million in Grants to Help People Transition from the Criminal Justice System to the Community**

SAMHSA is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2010 for Offender Reentry Program grants. The purpose of this program is to expand and/or enhance substance abuse treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced juvenile and adult offenders returning to the community from incarceration for criminal/juvenile offenses.

Application Due Date: January 19, 2010

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/TI-10-006.aspx>

**SAMHSA Accepting Applications for FY 2010 Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Targeted Areas of Need - Local Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care**

SAMHSA is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2010 for grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Targeted Areas of Need - Local Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care. This program is designed to foster the development and utilization of local recovery-oriented systems of care to address gaps in treatment capacity by supporting person-centered and self-directed approaches for substance abuse (including alcohol and drug) treatment and recovery services in communities with serious drug problems.

Application Due Date: January 14, 2010

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/TI-10-007.aspx>

**Programmatic Funding**

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Field Initiated (FI) Projects CFDA 84.133G-1 (Research)**

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-26127.pdf>

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Field Initiated (FI) Projects CFDA 84.133G-2 (Development)**

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-26127.pdf>

**Research Funding Opportunities**

**Selected NIH Requests for Applications (RFAs)**

**Seeding National Mentoring Networks to Enhance Diversity of the Mental Health Research Workforce**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-10-050.html>

**Leveraging Existing Health care Networks to Transform Effectiveness Research**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-10-030.html>

## Selected NIH Program Announcements (PAs)

### Drug Abuse Dissertation Research: Epidemiology, Prevention, Treatment, Services, and/or Women and Sex/Gender Differences

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-020.html>

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## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES National Institutes of Health

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The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) with support from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and in cooperation with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. For more information on the NIMH Outreach Program please visit <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners>.

To subscribe to receive the *Update* every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml>

The information provided in the NIMH Update is intended for use by the Outreach Partners, National Partners, and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education, and partnership programs.