

Purpose: A university-community partnership, *Gator Connect*, is designed to expand capacity of ACPS' SBMH services by leveraging university faculty to co-supervise 15 SBMH trainees in five high-need ACPS schools during the project's five-year design. By increasing the number of opportunities for supervised postsecondary student pre-service practicum in the field, paired with opportunities for enhanced SBMH training, professional identity formation, and networking, we can grow the number of state-credentialed graduates prepared and socialized to fill chronically vacant positions in Alachua County. Additionally, by recruiting from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, enhancing training and supervision in culturally responsive and trauma-informed practices, and partnering with schools with large racially/ethnically minoritized student populations, we will promote diversification of the field and better address the mental health needs of marginalized students in local, high-need schools. Thus, the goals of *Gator Connect* (and their relation to the grant program's priorities) include:

Goal 1: Grow and diversify the pipeline from application to the University of Florida's School Psychology, School Counseling, and Mental Health Counseling Programs to graduation, credentialing, and retention in a high-need LEA (ACPS) to expand the capacity for SBMH services within five high-need ACPS schools and complete trainees' fieldwork requirements (**Absolute Priority, Competitive Preference Priority 1**).

Goal 2: Expand and sustain a university-community partnership to provide evidence-based, culturally and linguistically inclusive, and identity-safe SBMH services for students in high-need schools (**Competitive Preference Priority 1 and 2**).

Goal 3: Create, deliver, and evaluate training in evidence-based, culturally responsive, and trauma informed SBMH service delivery for *Gator Connect* trainees and all school-based mental health providers and supervisors in ACPS (**Competitive Preference Priority 2**).