

## Mental Health Expansion Grant (MHEG) – Capacity Grant Requirements 2023 - 2025

This award is designed to contribute to a) the salary of Qualified Mental Health Providers (QMHP), Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHA)<sup>1</sup> or other certified and / or credentialed behavioral health or wellbeing providers<sup>2</sup> or candidates for aforementioned certification and / or credentials who provide on-site services at the School Based Health Center (SBHC); b) any necessary capacity/infrastructure to collect data and report on the mental health encounter visits as defined by the SBHC State Program Office (SPO).

### **Use of Grant Funding:**

- Clinics(s) must be a State Certified SBHC(s) in order to receive grant funding.
- Grant funding must be used to support mental health capacity (provider hours / FTE) within the SBHC.
- Grant funding can be used to support multiple positions within each SBHC.
- Grant funding is not intended to supplant existing SBHC mental health capacity that has previously been funded by other means (separate grants, billing, etc.).
- Grant funding will be awarded to SBHC systems based on the number of sites within each system<sup>3</sup>. Grant funding can be dispersed throughout SBHCs within a given system (if applicable) to best meet youth needs (e.g., in a system with 3 SBHCs one site could get 75%, one site could get 25% and one site could get 0% of MHEG funds).
- Awardees will be expected to use grant funding for staff to provide billable services as well as direct services without reimbursement (such as pre-treatment engagement, providing services to uninsured clients, etc.)
- Awardees may use grant funding to support SBHC or school wide prevention activities and provider outreach and education.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by 309-019-0125 - Specific Staff Qualifications and Competencies

<sup>2</sup> This could include those credentialed, certified, or licensed through OHA's Traditional Health Worker (THW) Program or The Mental Health and Addictions Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO), Tribal based practices providers covered under Medicaid, or OHA Health Care Interpreter (HCI) Program.

<sup>3</sup> The SPO defines a system as the SBHCs operating under a shared medical sponsor within a given county.

### **Service Priorities:**

- Awardees will be expected to provide culturally and linguistically responsive health services<sup>4</sup> that are inclusive and welcoming for youth from diverse backgrounds.
- Awardees must prioritize school-aged (5-21) clients for grant-funded services and activities.
- Awardees must have a strategy to ensure students' access to mental/behavioral health services, regardless of their ability to pay.
- Awardees are expected to provide youth friendly clinical services.
- If the grant funding is subcontracted to a separate Mental Health Agency, the Mental Health Agency will be expected to work with the Medical Sponsor Agency to coordinate services provided at the SBHC (e.g., policies, workflows, etc.) and meet SBHC Certification Standards requirements.
- Awardees must have a strategy to support a relationship with the SBHC host school.

### **Data Collection and Reporting:**

- Awardees will be expected to track and submit data related to mental health encounters as outlined in the SBHC Standards for Certification v4. SBHC Standards for Certification v4 is available at [www.healthoregon.org/sbhc](http://www.healthoregon.org/sbhc).
- Awardees will be expected to participate in check-in meetings with the SPO as needed and submit two narrative reports per biennium. The SPO will provide a template. Reports will be due July 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 and July 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- Awardees will be expected to keep the SBHC Operational Profile up to date and notify the SPO of vacancies within 20 calendar days for staff positions where salary is covered by the MHEG.

### **Training:**

- If grant funding is subcontracted to a separate Mental Health Agency, a representative from the Mental Health Agency must participate in an SBHC Orientation training. The training will be recorded and posted on the SPO website: [www.healthoregon.org/sbhc](http://www.healthoregon.org/sbhc).
- Awardees shall have a plan in place to prioritize staff training on topics relevant to population needs<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Culturally and linguistically responsive services: the provision of effective, equitable, understandable and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy and other communication needs. Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council Recommendations

<sup>5</sup> All behavioral health workforce should be trained in the following: trauma-informed care and workplaces, culturally and linguistically specific/responsive care, anti-racism, equity, interdisciplinary care (including working with peers), leadership and management development, and co-occurring disorders. Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council Recommendations October 2020.

**Other:**

- Awardees may request exemptions to specific grant requirements in situations where an awardee can demonstrate the intention of the grant is being met and that an exemption would allow for more responsive health services to be delivered (e.g., utilizing grant funding to support student mental health needs outside of host-school, to fund a culturally specific provider who isn't credentialed or to support client needs related to social determinants of health). SPO may allow exemptions on a case-by-case basis.