

School Health Services Planning Grant RFGP 5309

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

(click or scroll for answers)

1.	What is a School-Based Health Center (SBHC)?.....	1
2.	What is a School Nursing Model?	2
3.	Who should be involved in the proposal process?	2
4.	Should decision makers in my School District/ESD (superintendent, school board) sign-off on the proposal?	2
5.	Why aren't Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) the designated grantees for this funding opportunity?	2
6.	Does our planning process need to include the LPHA?	3
7.	What if my School District/ESD knows we are only interested in school nursing or an SBHC? What if we want both? Can we still submit a proposal and participate in the planning process?	3
8.	What if my School District/ESD already has a school nurse working in multiple schools, or working part-time (0.5 FTE)? Are we still eligible for funding?	3
9.	What if my School District/ESD only wants to receive funding for mental health services?	3
10.	If my School District/ESD decides to plan for an SBHC, do we have to apply to the SBHC SPO for certification?	4
11.	Where can I find additional resources and information?	4

1. What is a School-Based Health Center (SBHC)?

SBHCs (defined in 2017 ORS 413.225) are a unique health model for comprehensive physical, mental and preventive health services provided to youth and adolescents either within a school or on school property. To learn more about Oregon’s SBHCs visit the state SBHC website:

www.healthoregon.org/sbhc.

2. What is a School Nursing Model?

Inspired by the National Association of School Nurses [Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice](#), a wholistic School Nursing Model is defined as a School District or educational services district (ESD) employing one or more registered nurse(s), licensed to practice nursing in the state of Oregon, employed to provide school nurse services in alignment with Oregon law, recommended standards for school nurse staffing, and recommended standards of practice for the professional school nurse. For purposes of this RFGP, school nursing is defined by:

- a. ORS [342.465](#), or
- b. as a registered nurse who is an employee or contractor of a School District and who practices nursing in a school setting.

3. Who should be involved in the proposal process?

Proposers should engage with decision makers for their school district/Educational Service District (ESD) (e.g., superintendent, school board, etc.) early and often in the proposal process. The Adolescent and School Health Program also recommends early engagement with the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) and existing school health services staff (i.e., school nurse(s), SBHC staff, etc.) of the proposing school district/ESD.

Proposers should consider which stakeholders they plan to involve ensuring their support and ability to actively participate in the planning process. In addition to LPHAs and school health services staff, stakeholders could include: any Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located in the district; a regional health equity coalition, if any, serving the district; every Community Care Organization (CCO) with members residing in the district; local physical, behavioral and dental health providers; hospitals; county commissioners; school staff, including principals and teachers; community leaders; parents and students residing in the district; community-based organizations and local businesses.

4. Should decision makers in my School District/ESD (superintendent, school board) sign-off on the proposal?

The RFGP requires completion of the Proposer Information and Certification Sheet (Attachment A) with the expectation that the Authorized Signature be a decision maker designated to sign certified contracts for the school district/ESD (i.e., superintendent, school board chair, or another administrator). The Adolescent and School Health Program also requires a letter of support from school district/ESD Superintendent.

5. Why aren't Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) the designated grantees for this funding opportunity?

This two year planning grant is in response to the recently passed [HB2591](#) and appoints school districts and ESDs as the fiduciary lead in the planning process. Although school districts/ESDs

will be the designated grantee, any other partnering organization can lead the process and we encourage grantee communities to work closely with their LPHA throughout the two-year planning process.

6. Does our planning process need to include the LPHA?

Proposers should include the LPHA in the needs assessment and planning process. LPHAs often serve in a convening capacity for safety net and other public health services located within a county. Further, if the Grantee chooses the SBHC model, if the SBHC enters into the State Program Office (SPO) SBHC funding formula, LPHAs have the first right of refusal for State SBHC dollars.

7. What if my School District/ESD knows we are only interested in school nursing or an SBHC? What if we want both? Can we still submit a proposal and participate in the planning process?

All Phase 1 Awards conduct a needs assessment to evaluate site readiness and community need for an SBHC and school nursing services. After reviewing Proposals from the Phase 1 needs assessment phase, the Adolescent and School Health Program will select sites to continue to Phase 2 to either plan for an SBHC or the School Nursing Model.

SBHC Phase 2 Planning Grantees will move forward with planning for certified SBHCs within 12 months of the Year 2 cycle and enter the SBHC funding formula in the 2023-2025 biennium.

School Nursing Model Planning Grantees will move forward with planning an alternative model focused on school nursing and enter into a new funding formula for the School Nursing Model in the 2023-2025 biennium. Funding for both models is contingent upon available funds in the 2023-2025 legislatively adopted budget.

The Adolescent and School Health Program will only fund one service “model” —SBHC or school nursing—per Proposer.

8. What if my School District/ESD already has a school nurse working in multiple schools, or working part-time (0.5 FTE)? Are we still eligible for funding?

The Adolescent and School Health Program will *prioritize* funding for school districts/ESDs that do not have a school nurse or an SBHC, however, these criteria are not required for funding consideration. Proposals will also be weighted on the availability of the school nurse and the capacity at which they serve the district (e.g., for the general student population? For only 504 plan students?). Current school nurse coverage is one of many scoring elements that determine which school districts/ESDs will be funded. The best way to advocate for the school district/ESD’s need for school health services is to include details in the proposal, including how the school nurse currently supports the district’s student population.

9. What if my School District/ESD only wants to receive funding for mental health services?

This funding opportunity is for school districts/ESDs to assess need and plan for SBHCs and school nursing services. Mental health service needs are supported by school nursing and SBHCs and should be included in the needs assessment; but these funds are not solely dedicated to mental health services. The Adolescent and School Health Program will offer technical assistance to identify areas—including mental health— that can be further supported by other funding mechanisms, such as the Student Success Act. For more information on mental health services in SBHCs, contact Mikah Rotman, School Mental Health Specialist: mikah.rotman@dhsosha.state.or.us . For more information on the mental health role of school nurses, contact Corinna Brower, State School Nurse Consultant corinna.e.brower@dhsosha.state.or.us.

10. If my School District/ESD decides to plan for an SBHC, do we have to apply to the SBHC SPO for certification?

Certification is a completely voluntary process; any community can open an SBHC without SPO certification. However, the SBHC must be certified to be eligible for funding from the SPO.

Reference to State certification requirements can be found at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/YOUTH/HEALTHSCHOOL/SCHOOLBASEDHEALTHCENTERS/Pages/certification.aspx>

11. Where can I find additional resources and information?

- A link to the RFGP can be found here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/YOUTH/HEALTHSCHOOL/Pages/index.aspx>
- For information on SBHCs in Oregon, visit the SBHC page on the OHA website:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/YOUTH/HEALTHSCHOOL/SCHOOLBASEDHEALTHCENTERS/Pages/index.aspx>
- For additional information and resources on SBHCs, visit:
 - “Public Resources” page of the National School Health Alliance website:
<https://www.sbh4all.org/resources/public-resources/>
 - Oregon School Based Health Alliance website: <https://osbha.org/>
- For resources related to school nursing, visit:
 - OHA [2020 Oregon School Nurse Infographic](#)
 - National Association of School Nurses [Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice](#)
 - American Academy of Pediatrics [Role of the School Nurse](#)
 - Oregon School Nurses’ Association [Resource Links](#)
- For information and resources on community care organizations in Oregon, visit:
 - Coordinated Care Organizations page on the Oregon School Nurses Association website: <http://oregonschoolnurses.org/resources/coordinated-care-organizations>
 - Oregon Health Policy Board and the Coordinated Care Model page on the Oregon Health Authority website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPB/Pages/index.aspx>