



Memorandum

To: All School-Based Health Center Contacts

From: Stefanie Murray
Adolescent and School Health Manager

Date: September 26th, 2025

Subject: Application Announcement: Youth-Led Projects Grant

2025-2027 School-Based Health Center Mental Health Expansion Grant: Youth-Led Projects

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) SBHC State Program Office (SPO) is pleased to announce the release of a request for applications for the **School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Mental Health Expansion Grant (MHEG): Youth-Led Projects Grant**. The [Youth-Led Projects Grant](#) is designed to support activities that reduce mental health stigma and promote SBHC access. With a focus on prevention efforts the Youth-Led Projects Grant provides students the opportunity to build community and leadership skills while addressing health topics that matter to youth.

This funding has previously only been available to SBHCs that were already Youth-Led Projects Grant recipients. The SPO is **opening this funding for competitive application** for the 2025 – 2027 biennium (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027). Current grantees may apply for additional funding if eligible (based on current award amount) without risking a reduction to current award for 2025 – 2027 based on updated application; however, priority for grant funding will be given to SBHCs that do not currently receive Youth-Led Project grant awards.

I. Eligibility

- Awardees must be a sponsoring agency of a State Certified SBHC in Oregon at time of application

II. Grant Activities & Expectations

- Awardees must be able to meet the [2025 – 2027 Youth-Led Projects Grant requirements](#), including implementation of at least one SBHC focused project and at least one mental health focused project
- Previous projects have included:
 - School wide wellness events
 - Suicide prevention and education programming
 - Student Health Action Clubs (SHACs) / Youth Advisory Councils (YACs)
 - Social media projects
 - SBHC promotional materials (videos, posters, etc.)

III. Funding

- Grant funding must be used as outlined in the Youth-Led Projects Grant Requirements.
- The total amount available to support new grant recipients is **\$500,000** for the 2025-2027 biennium.
 - Applicants may apply for up to \$90,000 for an individual SBHC or up to \$137,000 for a system* of SBHCs. There is no minimum award amount.
- SPO expects to be able to release awarded funding by Winter 2026 and contracts will run through June 30, 2027.
- Award amounts will depend on the total number of successful applicants as determined by the SPO. In the event there are more requests than funds available, SPO will prioritize awards based on application scores as outlined in section IV.
- SPO anticipates conducting an evaluation of the Youth-Led Projects Grant during the 2025 – 2027 biennium and may restructure the grant beginning in the 2027-2029 biennium based on evaluation recommendations. Additionally, future funding will be dependent on each biennium's legislatively adopted budget.

* A system is one or more SBHCs operating under the same medical sponsor within a county

Grantees are encouraged to **pursue additional opportunities to support youth engagement activities** in case funding is unavailable in the future due to grant restructuring or budgetary changes.

IV. Proposal Content

- Proposals should not exceed 5 pages, not including budget and documentation of support. Proposals will be scored on the following criteria with **100 possible points**.
 1. Agency and SBHC(s) (Not scored)
 2. Total Funding Requested (Not Scored)
 3. Background (10 points)
 - Describe current and / or previous youth engagement activities
 - If current Youth-Led Projects Grant recipient, describe how additional funding will enhance your current grant activities
 4. Youth-Adult Partnerships and Project Description[†] (50 points)
 - Describe how your project will be implemented in partnership with youth, following a [Youth-Adult Partnership](#) model
 - Describe plan for implementing youth-led projects (e.g., plan for recruiting youth participants, plan for supporting youth ideas, structures you could provide to support youth leadership)
 - Describe how the project will be staffed
 - Describe how the project will help support the mental health needs of youth in the SBHC host school(s) and community
 5. Health equity (20 points)
 - Describe how your project will center equity and support leadership among youth most impacted by health disparities.
 6. Sustainability plan (10 points)
 - Describe your plan for sustaining your Youth-Led Projects in subsequent biennia should funding no longer be available.
 7. Budget (10 points)
 - Provide a projected budget for this grant (December 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027) in a spreadsheet or narrative form.

[†] As projects are youth-led, applications do not need to outline ideas for specific projects but can instead outline a plan for working with youth to implement projects and center youth participation.

8. Documentation of Support (Not scored)

- Applicants are required to submit documentation verifying applicants have support from any additional sponsoring agencies / school partners needed to implement grant activities, if awarded. Documentation should be brief (no more than 1 – 2 sentences) and serves as an acknowledgment that all parties are aware an application is being submitted. Relevant entities include:

1. Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) (if contract holder).
2. SBHC medical sponsor (if distinct from LPHA)
3. SBHC mental health agency (if distinct from medical sponsor)
4. SBHC host school or school district representative

V. Application Submission Deadline

- To be considered in the SPO application process, **all materials must be received by Friday October 24th at 5 PM.**
- Application may be submitted via email to: Mikah.Rotman@oha.oregon.gov as a word document or PDF.

VI. Selection Process[‡]

- All applications will be reviewed and scored by a grant review committee.
- The SPO will notify all applicants of their award status by December 1st, 2025.

VII. Technical Assistance Call

- The SBHC State Program Office will host two calls to answer any questions related to the Youth-Led Projects grant. Please register in advance using the zoom links below:
 - Tuesday October 7th, 2025, 10:00 – 10:45 AM – [Registration Link](#)
 - Thursday October 16th, 2025, 3:00 – 3:45 PM – [Registration Link](#)

VIII. Contact

- Please contact Mikah Rotman, School Mental Health Specialist, with questions or concerns: Mikah.Rotman@oha.oregon.gov or 971-278-0124.

[‡] SPO reserves the right to reject all plans submitted in response to the Request for Applications. All costs incurred in submitting this plan are the responsibility of the applicant and will not be reimbursed by the SPO. SPO reserves the right to seek clarifications of each plan and the right to negotiate a final contract in the best interest of the Agency, considering cost effectiveness and the level of time and effort required for the services.