

Mental Health Expansion Grant (MHEG) – Capacity Grant Requirements 2025 – 2027

Purpose of MHEG

This award is designed to contribute to:

- A. the salary of certified, credentialed or licensed behavioral health staff¹ providing mental health care, integrated behavioral health care, substance use treatment and/or other services designed to support emotional wellbeing; and
- B. any necessary capacity or infrastructure to deliver behavioral health services², collect data and report on the mental health encounter visits as defined by the SBHC State Program Office (SPO).

Use of Grant Funding:

- A clinic must be a State Certified School-Based Health Center to receive grant funding.
- Grant funding must be used to support on-site behavioral health capacity (provider hours) within the SBHC.
- Grant funding may be used to support multiple positions within each SBHC.
- Grant funding may be used for costs associated with direct patient services without reimbursement.
- Grant funding may be used to support prevention and education activities in the SBHC and in the school.
- Grant funding may be used to support youth, family, school and / or community engagement activities.
- Within a SBHC system³, grant funding does not need to be uniformly distributed across all SBHCs. Awardees may determine the allocation of grant funding that best meets the needs of students.

¹ This could include Board Registered Associates or providers who are licensed through State Approved Licensing Boards. This could also include those certified or credentialed through entities such as OHA's Traditional Health Worker (THW) Program, Mental Health and Addictions Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO), OHA's Health Care Interpreter (HCI) Program, or Tribal based practices providers covered under Medicaid.

² Behavioral health is used to encompass mental health, integrated behavioral health, substance use treatment and other services designed to support mental or emotional wellness.

³ 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 services⁴ 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 requirements outline in the SBHC Standards for Certification. SBHC Standards for Certification is available at www.healthoregon.org/sbhc.
- 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 behavioral health encounters as outlined in the SBHC Standards for Certification.
- Awardees will be expected to participate 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 15th, 2026, and July 15th, 2027.
- Awardees will be expected to keep the SBHC Operational Profile up to date and notify the SPO of vacancies within 30 calendar days for staff positions 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.
- Awardees shall have a plan in place to prioritize staff training on topics relevant to population needs⁵ and may use grant funding to support continuing education opportunities for staff.

⁴ 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*

⁵ 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*

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.