



Mental Health Expansion Grant

2025 – 2027 Overview

The Mental Health Expansion Grant supports on-site behavioral health capacity (provider hours) within the school-based health center (SBHC).¹ The grant contributes to the salary of behavioral health staff² providing mental health care, integrated behavioral health care, substance use treatment and/or other services designed to support a student's emotional wellbeing. Grant funding can also be used to contribute to the necessary capacity or infrastructure to deliver services or collect data and report on the mental health encounter visits as defined by the SBHC State Program Office (SPO).

Since 2013, the Oregon State Legislature has dedicated behavioral health funding to SBHCs to support student wellness and increase access to clinical care. During the 2023-2025 biennium (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025), the Oregon Health Authority distributed \$7 million through the SBHC Mental Health Expansion Grant to enhance behavioral health services in state certified SBHCs. The 2025 Oregon legislature allocated an additional \$6 million to support youth mental health promotion and substance use prevention through SBHCs. This additional funding will allow the SBHC State Program Office to fully implement a funding model in the 2025-2027 biennium (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027) that ensures all certified SBHCs will have access to the Mental Health Expansion Grant.

SBHCs promote integrated care in a youth-centered environment where physical health and mental health providers coordinate services, when applicable. The Mental Health Expansion Grant is just one funding source for behavioral health staffing and services. SBHCs rely on additional investment from the mental health agency, medical sponsor, local public health, schools / school districts, federal grants, and billing reimbursement to sustain the level of behavioral health services reflected in the overall visit counts.

¹ To learn more about Oregon's certified SBHCs, visit the Oregon Health Authority SBHC State Program Office website: www.healthoregon.org/sbhc.

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

Funding in the previous (2024-2025) grant cycle supported:

SBHC behavioral health provider types:

- Mental Health Therapists
- Integrated Behavioral Health Providers
- Peer Support Specialists and Community Health Workers
- Skills Trainers and Case Managers

SBHC behavioral health services:³

- Individual, group and family therapy
- Integrated behavioral health visits (brief, solution focused sessions in collaboration with a physical health provider visit and billed under a medical diagnosis)
- Care coordination, resource navigation or referral services
- Screenings and assessments (such as substance use screening, depression screening, suicide risk assessments, behavioral health assessments, etc.)
- Prevention and education programming
- Drug and alcohol counseling

SBHCs also used the grant to provide:

- Services for students without insurance or with private insurance (which may not cover mental health services)
- Classroom based support for students and consultation with school staff
- Supplies to enhance the therapeutic environment (fidgets, art supplies, decorations, etc.)
- Continuing education and training for staff

³ SBHCs may provide services beyond what is listed. The range of services offered at each SBHC is largely dependent on local needs, capacity, provider type and the agency responsible for behavioral health staffing. Please contact your local SBHC to inquire about specific services.

Data from state certified SBHCs show how youth access SBHC behavioral health services⁴:

- 97% of Oregon’s certified SBHCs had a behavioral health provider on-site.
- 6,475 school-aged youth received care from a behavioral health professional at a SBHC over the course of 51,427 visits.
- Behavioral health visits accounted for 47% of all SBHC visits for school-aged youth.
- 52% of school-aged clients who saw a behavioral health provider also had a physical health visit at the SBHC.

For more information about behavioral health services in SBHCs or the Mental Health Expansion Grant please contact Mikah Rotman – School Mental Health Specialist at Mikah.Rotman@oha.oregon.gov or 971.278.0124

⁴ Most recent data is from the 2023-2024 service year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).