

SBHC Mental Health Expansion Grants 2019-2021 Funding Formula Background & Frequently Asked Questions

Background

In 2013 the Oregon State Legislature increased funding to support and enhance Oregon's mental health system. A portion of this funding was specifically allocated for children's mental health, which provided an opportunity for School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to increase their capacity to provide mental health¹ services to their clients.

SBHC Mental Health Expansion Grants (MHEG) first became available in 2014 through a competitive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. This funding was awarded to State certified SBHCs through the State SBHC Program Office (SPO). Funding has continued in subsequent biennia, with awards during the 2015-2017 biennium also being disbursed through a competitive RFQ process.

In 2016 the SPO convened a group of stakeholders representing the SBHC field to develop a "funding formula" to distribute MHEG dollars more easily and equitably. The group produced a formula to award grants for the 2017-2019 biennium to SBHCs that had previously received MHEGs based on the following elements:

- **"Base"** of \$50,000 per SBHC, *plus*
- **"Points"** of \$10,000-\$90,000 calculated by two variables:
 - Previous year's free and reduced lunch student population at the SBHC host school (from Oregon Department of Education)
 - The county's mental health provider to population ratio, as determined by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:
<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/oregon/2016/measure/factors/62/data>
- *And* award amounts were capped at 150% more or 70% less than their previous (2015-2017) biennium award.

Any SBHC could apply for **"Pooled"** funds of up to \$50,000 per SBHC to supplement any funds lost in the formula, to expand services to any previously unfunded SBHCs, or to expand the model of care at any SBHC.

¹ "Mental health" is inclusive of mental, behavioral and addictions services

2019-2021 Funding Formula

The SPO made several small changes to the previous (2017-2019) funding formula to further reduce variation in MHEG funding over biennia and to better support SBHCs that may not neatly “fit” within the current funding formula, due to factors such as the size of the host school and the location of the SBHC within the county.

SPO added one additional metric to determine “**Point**” award funding:

- Student self-reported unmet mental health need, as measured by 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) survey data.
 - SPO consolidated the % of students reporting suicidal ideation, depressive episode, and unmet mental health need at the school, district or county level.
 - Points were awarded based upon the % difference of the available data (school, district or county) from the State average.
 - If the county does not participate in OHT, points were awarded based upon the State average.

SPO narrowed the amount each SBHC could lose or gain between biennia:

- Award amounts are capped at **130% more** or **80% less** than their previous (2017-2019) biennium award. Previously it was 150% and 70% respectively.

2019-2021 Application Process

More information about the 2019-2021 SBHC MHEG application process will be released in **April 2019**.

As in the previous biennium, applicants will be asked to indicate if they accept the award amount allocated in the 2019-2021 SBHC MHEG funding formula.

Applicants will also have an opportunity to request “**Pooled**” funds of up to \$50,000 per SBHC to support:

- Any unreasonable amount of funding lost in the funding formula
- Expansion of mental health services to a previously unfunded SBHC
- Expansion of mental health service delivery model at a currently funded SBHC

Frequently Asked Questions

How much funding will be available for the SBHC MHEG in 2019-2021?

The amount of available funding will be determined during the 2019 Oregon legislative session. The SPO's legislatively determined budget will be final in **July 2019**.

What is the difference between the award by SBHC "System" and the award by "County" in the funding formula spreadsheets?

The SPO generally uses the term SBHC "system" to refer to the SBHC medical sponsor. Several counties have SBHCs with different medical sponsors, so it is helpful for them to see the total award amount coming to the county, as well as the amount awarded to the different medical sponsors. In many counties there is only one SBHC medical sponsor agency (or system), so the amounts in the funding formula spreadsheet should be the same in those columns.

What can funding be used for?

Funding must be used to support mental health FTE through State certified SBHCs.

How can we apply for funding?

Application instructions will be released in **April 2019**.

Can we request funding for SBHCs that have not previously been awarded MHEG funding?

Yes, you can apply for up to \$50,000 per SBHC that has not previously received MHEG funding through the "Pooled" grant funds. Please note that the SBHC **must be State certified** to be eligible for funding.

We have several SBHCs in our "system," some of which do not currently receive MHEG. Can we request to change the SBHC(s) that receive funding under the grant?

Yes, you can request to move funding to different SBHC(s) within your system. Information about how to do this will be provided in the application instructions. Please note that the SBHC **must be State certified** to be eligible for funding.

What documentation will be required as part of our 2019-2021 MHEG application submission?

We do not anticipate requiring significant documentation as part of the application, but full application instructions will be released in **April 2019**.

Can we have access to the data you used to determine "points" in the funding formula?

Yes! You can find the funding formula "points" data sources here:

- Oregon Department of Education: Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch Report: <https://www.ode.state.or.us/sfda/reports/r0061select.asp>
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps – Oregon ratio of population to mental health providers: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/oregon/2016/measure/factors/62/data>

- Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) Survey: 2017 Results by State and County:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Pages/2017.aspx>
 - o **Please note:** District and school-level OHT results are not publicly available. You can request access to this information through your local district superintendent and/or school principal.

How will “Pooled” funding awards be prioritized?

In previous grant cycles funding awards were prioritized for SBHCs and Counties that had previously not been awarded MHEG dollars and/or SBHCs with no mental/behavioral health FTE available onsite. Currently all State certified SBHCs have some level of mental/behavioral health FTE available onsite, so funding awards will be prioritized for communities with continued unmet mental health need. The precise priority criteria will be announced with the application instructions in **April 2019**.

When will final award amounts be released?

Final award amounts will be released once the legislature has finalized the budget for the 2019-2021 biennium. SPO should know the final award amounts in July 2019.