

Mental Health Expansion Grant RFQ – Support Projects
Frequently Asked Questions

Application:

Q: We have multiple partners and multiple school-based health centers in our county. Which agency should submit our application to SPO?

A: SPO is asking that the Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) apply directly for the funds, as we will be contracting/disbursing funding directly to LPHAs. As with other SBHC funding, the mental health expansion grant funding will be disbursed via a LPHA contract amendment. The LPHAs will then be expected to distribute the award funds to local SBHCs, as well as participate in scheduled technical assistance teleconference calls with SPO.

Q: Our local public health authority (LPHA) is the medical sponsor. Do we need to submit two letters of recommendation?

A: You do not need to submit multiple letters of recommendation, but please indicate this relationship in your letter of recommendation.

Q: Our local public health authority (LPHA) is applying for multiple SBHC sites, with multiple support projects at each site. How should we structure our application?

A: It is up to the LPHA how to structure the application(s) in a way that makes the most sense for the proposed support projects and budget. If the LPHA is applying for multiple projects per SBHC, SPO encourages the LPHA to create an individual application for each individual SBHC that will reflect the local need, project scope, etc. of that school site.

Q: When does SPO expect the contract amendments to be signed, given the notification timeline?

A: SPO intends to notify awardees by December 16th at the latest, in order to provide sufficient time to include the new funding into the December county contract amendment.

Q: Our county has multiple SBHCs with different medical sponsors and managing partners. Will our SBHC be competing for this funding with other SBHCs within our own county or across the entire applicant pool?

A: SPO will review and score applications according to the criteria outlined in the RFQ. Applications will be competitive across the entire applicant pool; however preference will be given to projects based upon local need, as outlined in the RFQ.

Budget:

Q: Given the total funding amount for support projects (\$1 million), the LPHA is concerned that there will not be sufficient funding to complete all of our proposed projects.

A: SPO will work with each LPHA to negotiate the level of work feasible, given amount of funding available for each project. The level of funding available will be determined by application score, proposed budget, and level of need in each community.

Q: Does SPO anticipate that funding will be able to support ongoing projects in future biennia?

A: At this time SPO expects support project funding to be sustained in future biennia. Continuous costs associated with certain support projects, such as EHR setup and implementation, are not intended to be sustained beyond the current biennium. Evaluations of the current biennium's support projects will influence the ways in which support project funding is allocated in future biennia.

Option 1: Mental Health Screening Tool:

Q: Can the support projects funding be used to support technical assistance (TA) for selecting a screening tool, TA for implementing a screening tool, or both?

A: The support projects funding can be applied towards TA for identifying an appropriate screening tool, as well as TA for implementing this screening tool (material purchase, staff training, etc.).

Q: Can our LPHA contract with a local provider to provide TA?

A: Yes.

Option 3: Youth Advisory Committee

Q: Our SBHC already has an existing Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Can the funding be used to support a YAC project with an existing YAC?

A: Support project funding may be used to support both an existing YAC and the development of a new YAC. However, YAC-led projects must center on community and school engagement on mental health issues.

Q: Will sites be required to utilize the SBHC State Program Office's Youth Participatory Action Research (Y-PAR) curriculum for community and school mental health engagement projects?

A: SPO's Y-PAR curriculum is just one youth action research curricula available. Applicants may propose alternative curricula, however Youth Advisory Committee support projects are required to include a youth research component related to school and community engagement on mental health issues.

Option 4: Data Capturing System

Q: We would like to purchase a new electronic health record (EHR) system to capture our mental health data, but this system will be used to support data collection at community clinics, not just our SBHCs. Can we still apply for this support project option?

A: The support project funding is intended to support SBHC-based projects. The funding may be used to purchase an EHR system to support the capturing of data at the SBHC, which may include other clinics at no additional cost, but the funding may not be applied to support additional costs associated with data collection outside the SBHC.

Q: Our SBHC currently has EHR. Can funding be used to purchase laptops to help providers more easily access the EHR system?

A: Yes.

Option 5: Equity and cultural competence

Q: Our SBHC staff will need to take time during clinic hours to attend cultural competency trainings. Can funding be used to pay for substitute staff time at the clinic?

A: Funding may be used to support substitute staff time at the clinic.

Q: Can funding be used to provide cultural competency trainings for school staff who refer students to the SBHC?

A: The support project funding is intended to support SBHC-based projects. Unfortunately, funding cannot be used to support non-SBHC staff time.

A: Can funding be used to support culturally-specific direct services for clients, such as support groups or a parent group?

Q: Yes, support project funding can support these projects, as long as they are delivered through the SBHC.

Q: Can funding be used to support a pay differential necessary to recruit and retain mental health providers with qualifications necessary to reach cultural and linguistic minority populations in our community?

A: Yes, applicants will need to justify this pay differential in their applications.