A Pathway to Expansion: A Review of Oregon's SBHC Planning Grant Process

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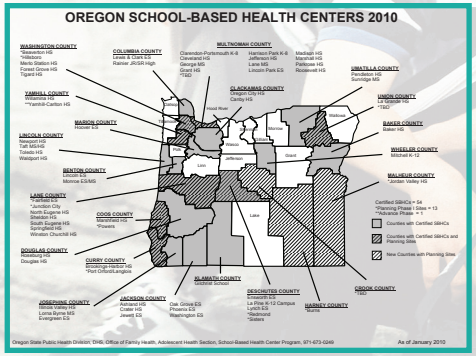
Healthy Schools Begin with Healthy Kids

Background

The Oregon School-Based Health Center (SBHC) State Program Office, of the Public Health Division, received funds from the State Legislature to expand the number of centers in Oregon during the last three legislative sessions. SBHC planning grants were awarded to county local public health authorities (LPHAs) based on a one-year or two-year planning process.



Two-year planning process

Although SBHCs have been in Oregon for over 25 years, the model is new to some communities and sustainability can be challenging. The two year planning process focuses on education, relationship building and community readiness as key factors towards success of a center.

Planning Year 1 (Phase I): Local planning committees educate partners and community members on Oregon's SBHC model. The goal at the end of year one is to demonstrate progress and determine the level of community support and ability to meet State Certification Standards during year two. By the end of Phase I, grantees should have identified a site location, engaged potential medical sponsors, and developed a strategic plan and budget for Phase II.

Planning Year 2 (Phase II): Begin renovation/construction of the site. Planning groups work with partners to develop memorandums of understandings and policy and procedures, recruit clinic staff and participate in ongoing marketing of the SBHC. The center should be open and operating by the Spring of year two and certified by the end of the school year.

One-year planning

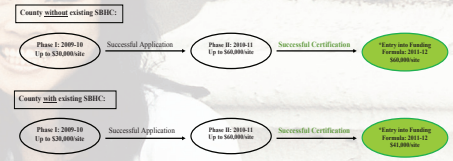
Advance Phase: For the first time in 2009, the state program office offered an option to apply for a one-year fast track planning grant. The one-year option was designed for sites that can demonstrate superior readiness either as a previously unsuccessful grantee or a community that has been planning independent of state planning grants.

Funding

State planning grant dollars are awarded to LPHAs in an effort to better align SBHCs with public health's mission, delivery system and ongoing support. The goal of planning is to become a state certified SBHC. Once certified, the center enters into the State Funding Formula.

OPTION 1: Two Year SBHC Planning Process

Previously awarded planning grantee sites are ineligible for this option.



OPTION 2: One Year SBHC Planning Process

Option available to any site.

SBHC State Funding Formula

State dollars are based on availability of legislatively approved budget.

- 1 Certified SBHC in County -------- LPHA receives $60,000/yr
- > 1 Certified SBHC in County ------ LPHA receives $41,000/yr for each certified center

2-year Planning Timeline for 2009 - 2011 Planning Grantees

June 2009
Pre-RFP letter sent out
An announcement regarding the final approval of expansion dollars for the development of new SBHCs went out to all county health departments and SBHC partners. The announcement included an anticipated release date and requirements for the Request for Proposals (RFP) for planning grants.

July 2009
Release of RFP
The RFP was sent to all county health departments and SBHC partners with a due date of September 18, 2009. Five technical assistance calls were scheduled during July to September to answer any related questions. All proposals must come through the county local public health authorities (LPHAs).

September 28, 2009
LPHA notification of Phase I awards
LPHAs were notified of Phase I proposal results by phone. Official Phase I award letters were sent to the LPHAs, which included funding information, expectations of the grants and reporting requirements. All grantees were expected to participate in monthly technical assistance conference calls.

October 2009 – June 2010
Phase I Planning Activities
Site level: Conduct community meetings, present to school board, build partnerships.
State level: Facilitate monthly technical assistance calls, conduct individual site visits, and provide ongoing technical assistance as needed.

June 30, 2010
Phase I funding ends

July 16, 2010
Phase I final reports due
Each Phase I planning grantee is expected to submit a Phase I final report to the State Program Office. Based on the final report, the State Program Office will select sites to advance to Phase II Planning wherein they must meet State Certification Standards by Spring 2011.

August 2010
LPHA notification of Phase II award
All Phase I planning sites are notified of Phase II planning awards. Phase II sites are required to have a monthly check-in with the State Program Office.

August 2010 – June 2011
Phase II Planning Activities
Site level: Conduct community meetings, develop marketing campaign, construct/renovate space, develop memorandums of understanding and policies and procedures, hire clinic staff.
State level: Facilitate monthly check-in with each site individually, provide ongoing technical assistance as needed, certify sites in Spring 2011.

May – June 2011
Certification of Phase II planning sites

July 2011
Entry into the State funding formula
Once certified, counties would be granted annual awards based on the funding formula provided certification standards are maintained and contingent upon legislatively adopted budgets.