



# School-Based Health Center Program

## 2016-2021 Request for Application Overview

November 2015

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### BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. 25-20.5-501-503, the **School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Program** provides grants to school-based health centers with priority given to centers that **serve a disproportionate number of uninsured or underinsured children and youth (defined as birth to 21 years of age), a low-income population or both** and may award grants to (1) establish new school-based health centers; (2) expand primary health, behavioral health and oral health services offered by existing school-based health centers; (3) expand public and private health insurance enrollment; and/or (4) provide support for ongoing operations of school-based health centers. Funding is aligned with the **SBHC Program Priorities: Quality** (through the *Revised Quality Standards for Colorado School-Based Health Centers*, clinical outcomes and performance measures); **Quantity** (by increasing the number of SBHCs, the number of persons served, and the services provided); **Sustainability** (through infrastructure support, quality improvement activities and technical assistance); and **Partnerships** (through active stakeholder involvement). The SBHC Program is re-shaping under the **Triple Aim: Better care for individuals; Better health for populations; Lower per capita costs.**

<http://www.ihl.org/engage/initiatives/TripleAim/Pages/default.aspx>

In the spirit of responsible stewardship, CDPHE aims to continue supporting the existing SBHC network while also funding new SBHC sites to continue expanding the network in Colorado. CDPHE recognizes the uniqueness of each SBHC site and the many variables that come into play in operating a strong school-based health center. Applications will be reviewed on their own merit, but categorized as either urban or rural/frontier and within each of those categories as either a part-time or full-time operation with consideration for the patient base, accessibility and utilization, staffing levels, and quality and level of service. **Ultimately, however, the funding goal is to invest in SBHC sites that provide accessible and high quality care, in the most patient-centered, efficient and sustainable way, and utilized by the greatest number of high-need children and youth possible to improve health outcomes.**

To that end, the SBHC Program intends to release a new, 5-year Request for Applications (RFA) in January 2016 only for SBHC sites that are currently in operation or will move from the planning stage into year one of full operation by July 1, 2016. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021, and annual awards are contingent upon available funding, a strong operations plan, solid grantee performance, and compliance with all contract requirements, including cooperation and active participation in the SBHC Program evaluation with Apex, Inc. involving electronic data exchange and reporting. All SBHC sites currently funded by CDPHE are required to apply as well as any other interested SBHC sites. Funding is never guaranteed, even if previously funded by CDPHE.

This new RFA contains significant revisions and more competitive expectations from past SBHC applications. It is imperative that interested parties carefully read the entire RFA prior to completion and submission of the application. The RFA is considerably longer than past applications requiring far more details primarily because it is a 5-year RFA. The list below highlights the RFA's main sections to help interested parties plan their time and effort for the new application. This document is not intended to cover every RFA question or item, but rather simply provide a broad overview.

### CONTENT of the new SBHC PROGRAM RFA

- 1. RFA:** Every community has distinct needs, priorities, assets and resources. The applicant must use the most current data to demonstrate how the SBHC(s) is uniquely poised as a pediatric practice to effectively and efficiently serve the community by addressing the health needs of primarily children and youth (birth to 21 years of age), and why CDPHE should consider a five-year investment in the site(s).
  - **Cover Sheet:** Provide current contact information.
  - **Financial Information:** Provide detailed operating costs for the site(s) and the diversified revenue sources, including third-party payers, to ensure long-term financial sustainability beyond SBHC Program funding, particularly as SBHC funding decreases in years two through five of the RFA funding period. Grantees will be required to generate third-party payer revenue as a funding contingency.

- **Sustainability** Describe the SBHC business model, including quality assurance, and how SBHC site(s) will work with various partners, stakeholders and funders to ensure long-term support for and operation of the SBHC(s).
  - **Coordination of Care:** Describe how care coordination and communication will occur among SBHC staff, and between school staff and outside specialists or providers.
  - **Youth Engagement:** Describe how youth are meaningfully engaged in every aspect of the SBHC(s) and how the site(s) overcome anticipated challenges to implementing youth engagement.
  - **Community Advisory Council (CAC):** Describe CAC members as representatives of the community to be served, and CAC's direct role in the development and ongoing operations of the SBHC(s).
  - **Site-Specific Operations Plan** (*longest section of the RFA*): A detailed Operations Plan will be required for each site for which funding is requested, including information about the community, host school and patients to be served; SBHC outreach and enrollment practices to ensure a solid base of patients; insurance enrollment, coding and billing processes; staffing levels, operational hours, and visit data; facility specifications; and other information as required. If funded, sites will be required to revise the Operations Plan each year.
2. **Revised Quality Standards for Colorado School-Based Health Centers:** Mid-2015, SBHC Program staff and the SBHC Quality Improvement and Standards Team revised and clarified the SBHC Quality Standards. Funding is contingent upon SBHCs meeting all revised Standards by July 1, 2016 (funding start date).
  3. **Menu of Services:** Indicate all services provided on-site or by referral at each SBHC site. A separate menu is required for each site for which funding is requested.
  4. **Performance Work Plan:** Fulfill work activities and provide deliverables toward achieving statewide performance measures, including opportunities for quantity and quality improvement.
  5. **Operational Budgets and Justification:** Detail a year one (2016-17) budget in direct relation to the level of service and patients served by the SBHC(s), and complete estimated operational budgets for years two (2017-18) through five (2020-2021) to demonstrate required long-term planning, stability and sustainability. If funded, sites will be required to revise the operational budget each year.
  6. **Attestation of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** Complete and sign an MOU between the applicant and every contracted partner agency as verification of the service agreement between the two parties.
  7. **Organizational Chart for the School-Based Health Center(s):** Provide a chart(s) that indicates clear lines of authority, supervision and responsibility for each SBHC site(s), including relationships between the SBHC site(s) and the Lead Sponsoring Agency, Medical Sponsor and every contracted partner agency.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications will be accepted in electronic form only in accordance with the RFA instructions.

## SCORING

RFA scoring will be based upon the content above; a detailed, complete, current and accurate application; and past performance as a CDPHE contractor, if applicable. Major factors in the funding selection process include number of patients served (especially low-income children and youth); level and types of services; number and types of visits by staffing levels; diversified revenue/funding sources; a detailed Operations Plan, and a reasonable and accurate budget; a realistic and detailed plan for sustainability including financial stability beyond SBHC funding; and youth and stakeholder engagement.

## QUESTION & ANSWERS

SBHC Program and other CDPHE staff members are not permitted to provide additional information about the RFA than already provided herein. However, the SBHC Program will have a Question & Answer (Q&A) Period following the release of the application and will conduct an RFA webinar in January 2016 to address questions at that time. Questions and answers from the Q&A Period will be posted on the SBHC Program website. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

**RFA Release Date: January 4, 2016**  
**RFA Webinar (application overview and Q&A): January 7, 2016**  
**Question & Answer Period: January 4 – 29, 2016**  
**RFA Due Date: February 4, 2016**  
**Funding Start Date: July 1, 2016**

*(Dates indicated herein are tentative and are subject to change if circumstances require it.)*

School-Based Health Center Program  
FY2016-17 thru FY2020-21 Alignment of Funding Strategy and Priorities:  
*Quality, Quantity, Sustainability and Partnerships*

