

RFP: School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

OVERVIEW

On January 31st, the New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of health care services to students through School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in select NYC public schools. Awardees will provide comprehensive primary preventive care (including age-appropriate reproductive health care services) and mental health services. Mental health services must be provided on-site and must include mental health assessments, crisis intervention, counseling, and referrals to a treatment continuum of supportive services including emergency psychiatric care, community-based support programs, and inpatient care.

DOHMH will provide a total of \$48 million across all contracts, with \$6 million as the maximum reimbursable amount of each contract. Contracts will last for up to nine years.

The RFP is available in the PASSPort system [here](#). Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

FUNDING

DOHMH will provide a fixed annual base award of \$100,000 per site. Awarded applicants will also receive a unit rate per student enrolled in the school. The unit rate is not determined in advance, but instead will be calculated based on the total school population as of the current October “Automate the Schools” (ATS) rosters. For reference, the October 2018 ATS resulted in a calculated unit rate of \$66.84 per student, or about \$50,000 for an enrollment of 750 students.

SBHCs may not charge any fees to the students or their families and should have the capacity to bill and collect Medicaid payments.

Receiving an award through this RFP does not guarantee that the awardee will be assigned an SBHC site. Instead, awardees will become eligible to compete for future SBHC site assignments as sites become available. When DOHMH determines that there is a need for an SBHC provider at a specific site, DOHMH will request a written Expression of Interest from all vendors with registered contracts that resulted from this RFP and will select the appropriate vendor to serve the site.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations with at least three years of experience in the past ten years delivering the following services to school-age children and adolescents in NYC:

- Primary and preventive care;
- Diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions;
- Management of chronic conditions;
- Mental health services; and
- Age-appropriate reproductive health services.

Services must be provided through the applicant’s Article 28 institution or freestanding Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center. If the applicant is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), services must be provided through another licensed Article 28 provider via a written agreement.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

SBHCs must be open and staffed during school hours and must ensure 24/7 access to services for enrolled students, including during non-school hours and vacation periods. SBHC services must be provided by an interdisciplinary team, which must include but is not limited to:

- A full-time medical provider (NP/PA/MD/DO) for every 750-1000 students;
- A full-time mental health professional (LCSW, LMSW) for every 750-1000 students; and
- A full-time clerical/front desk staff person (dedicated to front desk operations only and cannot also function as a medical assistant).

Providers will be expected to provide health services to at least 750 patients and complete 2,100 visits annually. By the second full year of operation, contractors will be expected to enroll 75 percent of all students attending the school by the end of the 4th quarter.

APPLICATIONS

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following:

- Relevant Experience (20 points)
- Enrollment, Outreach, and Utilization (15 points)
- Primary and Preventive Care Services (15 points)
- Linkages with School and Other Health Facilities (10 points)
- Staffing Plan and Qualifications (15 points)
- Monitoring, Reporting, and Performance Measures (15 points)
- Budget Management (10 points)

Proposals must receive a minimum score of 70 to be considered for funding. DOHMH will also consider which proposals are most advantageous to NYC when making award decisions.

Timeline

DOHMH will accept proposals on an ongoing basis. Applicants interested in providing SBHC services in any borough should submit a single proposal.

Questions may be submitted to Dara Lebowhl at RFP@health.nyc.gov with “SBHC” in the subject line.