School-Based Health Center (SB26) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **Q: Would you fund support for Head Start programs?**

   A: ODH will fund healthcare agencies to implement this project. The healthcare agency will partner with a K-12 school or school district to implement this project.

2. **Q: Where would I submit the application?**

   A: Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP)

   GMIS Portal Grant Application Submission Job Aid

   ***Job Aid 1**: Agency Registration Job Aid*

   ***Job Aid 2**: System Access and Navigation Job Aid*

3. **Q: Is it possible to open up the application portal so our team may begin assessing the materials required for submission?**

   A: Yes, please see Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP) and

   GMIS Portal Grant Application Submission Job Aid *for guidance.*

   Appendix C. will be sent as a Word Document to all bidder's call attendees following this meeting. This template should be used as your application and will be uploaded in GMISP.

4. **Q: Can the Optional Academic Data Deliverable be used under any of the project types? For example, if we apply for the Start-Up Grant, can we include the Academic Data Deliverable.**

   A: Agencies applying for start-up or operational/expansion project types are eligible to apply for the optional data deliverable. Please see the deliverable table on page 29 of the solicitation for additional details.

5. **Q: Is the Optional Data Deliverable included in the Project Type Funding. Or, is that a separate up to $200,000.00 similar to what happened this current fiscal year.**

   A: The optional data deliverable funds will be awarded in addition to the project type funding. Applicants may apply for and up to $200,000 for new agencies who have never received academic data deliverable funds and up to $100,000 for agencies who were previously funded by ODH for the optional data deliverable.

6. **Q: For category (3) support operational and expansion projects to existing site, is this allowed to cover existing costs like providers and staff already working at the site? In our case, it would be the same staff but a continued emphasis on growing the number of students served.**

   A: The SBHC Expansion/Operational funds may be used to provide funding for established SBHCs for ongoing operations. Priority will be given to agencies expanding dental, vision, behavioral health or telehealth services.

7. **Q: On page 12 of the Request for Solicitations, under section II, the RFS states "Agencies will receive GMISP access after the Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding is submitted to ODH." This is my first time working on an application in the new GMISP system, and I don't see the old NOIAF form in the RFS. Is there a new way we are supposed to submit the NOIAF?**

   A: There is no Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding (NOIAF). ODH is transitioning from our legacy Grant Management System (GMIS) to our new Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP). The SB26 solicitation was posted in legacy GMIS, and applications will be submitted in GMISP. Applicants can register for GMISP for access, complete application and submit. Appendix C. Word Document will be sent to all bidder's call attendees following this meeting. This template should be used as your application and will be uploaded in GMISP.

8. **Q: Do I just send you a one-page letter of Notice of Intent or do you require additional information or a more in-depth document?**

   A: There is no Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding (NOIAF required). ODH is transitioning from our legacy Grant Management System (GMIS) to our new Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP). Please see GMIS Portal Grant Application Submission Job Aid for additional information.

9. **Q: When you go to the PHAB site which is referenced it does not allow you to access the Standards which are required. Can you provide access?**

   A: Please see the PHAB Website for additional information. Standards and Measures can be found HERE.

10. **Q: I did not see an Appendix A and/or B to this solicitation release and need to set up new-user access to the GMIS portal.**

    A: Your agency should visit the Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP) webpage and use the GMIS Portal Grant Application Submission Job Aid for access and the job aids below for agency registration.

Job Aid 1: [Agency Registration Job Aid](#)

Job Aid 2: [System Access and Navigation Job Aid](#)

Requests for any additional information, or specific questions should be directed to grant.support@odh.ohio.gov.

11. Q: Are the Planning and Start Up grant opportunities limited to primary care providers, or are behavioral health providers eligible for these funds?

A: Planning and Start-Up project types should follow the [school-based health center common definition](#) developed by the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance. Planning and Start-Up projects must provide comprehensive primary healthcare. Behavioral health partners may apply but they must demonstrate that primary health services are or will be provided at the SBHC as well.

12. Q: Are existing school-based behavioral health clinics eligible for funding through the Operational or Expansion Grant? Or are these for existing SBHC that do not currently offer these services to expand their services to offer behavioral health (among other) services?

A: School-based behavioral health clinics are eligible for Operational/Expansion funds to support current efforts or increased service area. Behavioral health partners may apply but they must demonstrate that primary health services are or will be provided at the SBHC as well.

13. Q: In reviewing the RFP for SB26, I noticed it says that GMIS access will be granted after the notice for intent to apply is received. Is there a particular form our institution should use to submit the notice of intent to apply?

A: There is no Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding (NOIAF). Each agency can register for GMISP for access using [Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP)](#). Please see [GMIS Portal Grant Application Submission Job Aid](#) for additional information.

14. Q: Slide 1 said 19 SBHC were funded. Are they early funded with continuing support from the state? Or is this implying a one-time fund assistance through a grant? That was confusing

A: In 2022 ODH used COVID-19 relief funds to support the creation or expansion of School-Based Health Centers (SBHC). The large project braided multiple funding streams and involved internal ODH partners from the Offices of Rural Health and Health Opportunity and the Ohio Department of Education. Using these funds, ODH

funded 14 health partners to implement SBHCs in 18 counties and 32 school districts. ODH continued this work through state General Revenue Funds to support SBHCs in Ohio. In 2024, three competitive solicitations were created to allow a variety of SBHC providers to apply for funding. ODH was able to award funding to health partners to Continue SBHC Operational Support, Expand Established SBHCs and Plan and Implement a new SBHCs. In total, ODH funded 19 SBHC contracts.

15. Q: Can this project be utilized with Charter Schools?

A: ODH will fund healthcare agencies to implement this project. K-12 Charter schools are eligible to be the partner with a healthcare agency to implement the SBHC project.

16. Q: Will you accept a full business associate agreement between health partner and school district, or is an MOU the only option?

A: The purpose of the MOU is to ensure the commitment from the health partner and school. If another type of agreement meets outlies the roles and responsibilities of the healthcare agency and the school district and is legally binding, it might be accepted.

17. Q: Are Educational Service Centers (ESC's) eligible?

A: ODH will fund healthcare agencies to implement this project. Healthcare agencies will partner with K-12 schools or school districts to implement this project.

18. Q: Must a project be with an entire school district or may individual schools be service sites?

A: The SBHC could serve a school building, multiple buildings, or a school district.

19. Q: Can one entity apply for a new AND an operational grant?

A: No, applicants may only submit one proposal. ODH will not fund one agency for two project types.

20. Q: How do you indicate intent to apply so can get access to submission site?

A: There is no Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding (NOIAF). ODH is transitioning from our legacy Grant Management System (GMIS) to our new [Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP)](). The SB26 solicitation was posted in legacy GMIS, and applications will be submitted in GMISP. Applicants can register for GMISP for access, complete application and submit.

21. **Q: Can the grant (through planning) be used to obtain eligibility such as the ability to provide comprehensive primary health to youth or the ability to bill Medicaid?**

    A: Yes, the SBHC planning projects should use their business plan as a workplan to meet the eligibility requirements for implementing a SBHC.

22. **Q: How are you defining "experienced" in order to be able to apply for a Start-Up grant? If we have done some school-based healthcare services in the past, have completed planning (without grant funds) and have an established relationship with the school district, does that count? Or, does experienced only mean if we were operating a full-time site with a primary care provider?**

    A: If a healthcare agency currently operates a SBHC, or has in the past, they have experience. Please use the application template to explain your experience working in SBHCs. If you have experience and an MOU with a school district, you are eligible to apply for Start-Up funds.

23. **Q: Will behavioral health providers be eligible for funding through the planning and start-up opportunities, or is this for primary/physical care providers?**

    A: Planning and Start-Up project types should follow the [school-based health center common definition](#) developed by the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance. Planning and Start-Up projects must provide comprehensive primary healthcare. Behavioral health partners may apply but they must demonstrate that primary health services are or will be provided at the SBHC as well.

24. **Q: Is participation in OPPAL a requirement for the behavioral health component of the operations/expansion grant, or can community-based providers be included in this grant opportunity?**

    A: The OPPAL QI deliverable is optional and not required for any project type.

25. **Q: Equipment and program staff contributions are listed as an excluded cost in the budget section of NOFO, but under the "Year 1 Allowable Costs" Table, equipment/technology and staff time are listed as allowable. Can you clarify which guidance is correct?**

    A: Equipment/technology is an allowable cost for the Start-Up and Operational/Expansion projects. Staff time is allowable for all project types.

26. **Q: Who should letters of support be addressed to?**

    A: Debi Kroninger, Chief of Health Programs, Medical Director's Office

27. **Q: If not signed up with GMISP how do I sign up?**

A: *Your agency should visit the* [Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP)](#) *webpage and use the* [GMIS Portal Grant Application Submission Job Aid](#) *for access and the job aids below for agency registration.*

Job Aid 1: [Agency Registration Job Aid](#)

Job Aid 2: [System Access and Navigation Job Aid](#)

28. **Q: Can agencies apply for more than one opportunity?**

A: No, *applicants may only submit one proposal. ODH will not fund one agency for two project types.*

29. **Q: Could an agency submit one application for two SBHC locations that are in the same category (ie, both are in the planning stage)?**

A: No, *applicants may only submit one proposal.*

30. **Q: Is a single organization allowed to apply for more than one grant? Two start-up projects at different locations, for example?**

A: No, *Applicants may only submit one proposal.*

31. **Q: Is there an opportunity for multiple SBHCs through this funding opportunity if the applicant is an experienced SBHC provider? And, if so, would that application still be capped at $500,000 (startup)?**

A: No, *Applicants may only submit one proposal.*

32. **Q: How does this grant differ from the current ODH SBHC grant?**

A: *The SFY24-25 SBHC funds supported Continuation, Planning and Expansion funding through contracts. The SFY26-27 funds will support Planning, Start-Up and Operational/Expansion project types through one grant opportunity. For more information on each project type, please see Appendix B in the solicitation.*

33. **Q: Where do we submit additional questions so they could be included in the weekly FAQ?**
A: *Your questions should be sent to* LeAndra.Capers@odh.ohio.gov *and* Jennifer.Casertano@odh.ohio.gov

34. **Q: Will a budget narrative template be provided?**

A: No, the budget and budget justification will be entered into GMIS Portal.

35. Q: How will you distribute the Word version of the template?
A: The Word version of the template will be distributed through email. Email LeAndra.Capers@odh.ohio.gov and Jennifer.Casertano@odh.ohio.gov for the Word version of the template.

36. Q: How many grants will be given out per category?

A: There's no specific amount of grants given out per category. The grant program is contingent on ODH being allocated money in the Ohio General Revenue Fund. If the amount allocated allows, ODH will fund up to 32 grants, with awards ranging from $50,000-$500,000 per year. The award amount will depend on the deliverables selected and the type of project proposed.

37. Q: Can a local health department serve as the grant administrator/project director for this planning grant and contract with a designated partner, such as a local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or another experienced healthcare provider, to deliver the clinical components of the project? Does the local health department not necessarily need to be the direct provider for this initiative, as long as we can effectively engage a suitable partner to handle the clinical aspects of the project as identified through the planning process?

A: If the health department is or operates an FQHC, they are eligible to apply. ODH will fund healthcare partners to implement this project who can provide comprehensive primary care to youth.

38. Q: If a new SBHC is being constructed, a 6 month start time is very short for construction to be completed. Please advise

A: All construction for Start-Up and Operational/Expansion projects must be completed by the end of year one 6/30/26. If unable to meet the deadline, you may not be eligible for the funds.

39. Q: When we are developing our budget, are there any recommended allocations for each deliverable? ie, dollar amount or total percentage of the budget

A: No, the SB26 budget should reflect the cost per deliverable. Agencies should determine deliverable amounts based on what the cost is to accomplish the deliverable and may vary by agency and project type.

40. **Q: With the budget period ending in June 2026 and project in June 2027- does this mean budget should only include expenditures through 2026?**

   A: Yes, the budget period for this application is 10/1/25 through 6/30/26.

41. **Q: Can you explain more of the requirements in the section on human trafficking.**

   A: Applicant should include how/if they promote the expansion of services to identify and serve those affected by human trafficking. ODH will give priority consideration to agencies who work to eliminate human trafficking in Ohio. Efforts should be included in application narrative.

42. **Q: Are contracted services for community and youth engagement allowable?**

   A: Subcontracts are allowable for agencies to meet deliverables. Please include proposed contract details in your budget justification.

43. **Q: Various required policies that grantees have to have like human trafficking/ whistleblower- do we just attest to those or will we need to provide copies or links for these?**

   A: Please describe your human trafficking/whistleblower efforts in your application narrative. It is not necessary to provide copies or links to these documents.

44. **Q: Is our in progress brick and mortars considered 'new expansion', and if so, can we add behavioral health as the additional service for this application?**

   A: If you currently operate a SBHC and you provide comprehensive primary healthcare to youth, you are eligible to apply for Operational/Expansion funding. Please use the application narrative to explain your current operations and how you plan to expand services.

45. **Q: Are we able to submit a new grant to help with continued operations at our Clinic or are the grants only for Expansion or new clinics?**

   A: If you currently operate a SBHC and you provide comprehensive primary healthcare to youth, you are eligible to apply for Operational/Expansion funding. Priority will be given to agencies expanding dental, vision, behavioral health or telehealth services.

46. **Q: Can you please provide clarity regarding where to access the updated GMIS portal?**

   A: [Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP)](#)

47. Q: Can funds be used to pay staff salaries (Nurse practitioners, LPNs MA's and Program Managers), Internet services, equipment and supplies on the mobile units of which we have two?

A: Funds may be used to support staff time for the SBHC. Equipment and supplies for the SBHC are also allowable, including internet services. Please describe these costs in your budget justifications. Equipment and supplies for a mobile unit may be allowable under the Operational/Expansion project type. The purchase, maintenance of mobile units, or mileage to clinics for mobile clinics is unallowable.

48. Q: Can funds be used to purchase equipment and supplies for a new construction project that has already been funded and will soon to be completed and ready for operation?

A: If you currently operate a SBHC and you provide comprehensive primary healthcare to youth, you are eligible to apply for Operational/Expansion funding. Priority will be given to agencies expanding dental, vision, behavioral health or telehealth services.

49. *Q: Is there a recording of the events or a recommended location to obtain information in regards to the grant?*

A: There is no recording of the Bidder's call. To receive the PowerPoint slides and the updated FAQ document, please contact LeAndra.Capers@odh.ohio.gov and Jennifer.Casertano@odh.ohio.gov.

50. Q: A school district would like to begin construction prior to October 1, 2025. Substantial completion would be after October 1, 2025. Would this be allowable to include in the capital?

A: All funds for this project should be spent between October 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. If a portion of the construction is completed during this timeframe, you may use the funds for construction. Please see the chart on page 28 of the solicitation for the documentation required for construction.

51. *Q:* **Our SBHC received the ODH 53829 Continuing Operating support for SBHC grant last year for $1M which runs until June 30, 2025. I attended the bidders conference call for the ODH SBHC (SB26) grant and saw that it starts October 1, 2025 and has an award ceiling of $500,000, but I wasn't sure if that was an additional funding opportunity or if it is replacing the operating grant opportunity from last year. Will that grant be available again this year?**

    A: This funding opportunity is replacing the SFY24-25 SBHC contracts, including the continuing operating grant.

52. *Q:* **Can you clarify if the continuing operating grant will be available for the next school year?**

    A: This funding opportunity is replacing the SFY24-25 SBHC contracts, including the continuing operating grant.

53. *Q:* **Since "planning" is listed as an allowable use of these funds, is there flexibility to partner with a primary health care provider to develop and implement a school-based health center (SBHC)?**

    A: ODH will fund healthcare partners to implement this project who can provide comprehensive primary care to youth. Healthcare provider will partner with schools or school districts to implement this work. Healthcare agencies may use contracts with other partners to complete deliverables.

54. *Q:* **While mental health is identified as a "critical" service, the requirement for services to be comprehensive makes me wonder if mental health alone would be insufficient. Would we need to offer additional physical health or other supportive services to meet the comprehensive care standard?**

    A: Eligible healthcare partners must be able to provider comprehensive primary care. Primary care services include, but are not limited to, comprehensive health assessments/well child exams, primary care mental health, diagnosis and treatment of minor, acute, and chronic medical conditions, and referrals to and follow-up for specialty care.

55. *Q: If an FQHC itself doesn't have specific experience with SBHCs but their new CEO does, are they eligible to apply?*

    A: Healthcare agencies should use the application narrative to explain their experience with operating a SBHC. There is no specific level or years of experience requirement.

56. **Q: *A local hospital, urgent care or other public healthcare provider would be the lead applicant?***

    A: Yes, All applicants must be a local public or non-profit agency, who has demonstrated the ability to provide comprehensive primary care services to youth.

57. **Q: Could there be behavioral health care and physical healthcare partners for the grant submission?**

    A: Yes, eligible healthcare partners must be able to provider comprehensive primary care. Primary care services include, but are not limited to, comprehensive health assessments/well child exams, primary care mental health, diagnosis and treatment of minor, acute, and chronic medical conditions, and referrals to and follow-up for specialty care.

58. **Q: Once the planning grant is completed would the healthcare entity be eligible for year 2 funding or would another application need to be submitted?**

    A: An application for funding in year two will be required. Funding after year one is not guaranteed and will be dependent on meeting grant deliverables and availability of state funding.

59. **Q: Per the Grant The program period will begin 10/1/25 and end on 6/30/27, what does that mean? Does that mean if awarded funds, we have until 6/30/27 to build a school-based health center?**

    A: The year-one grant period ends on 6/30/27. This means that if awarded funding in year-one, a grantee may be eligible for funds for year-two. All year-one funds must be spent by 6/30/26, including construction costs for Start-Up and Operational/Expansion projects.

60. **Q: Per the Grant, it states Agency must submit a Construction plan and a quote with a signed agreement, is that the only plan that needs to be submitted? I am looking at page 13 and it talks about equipment cost, is the cost of all things required for the grant? It says all equipment should be itemized with a minimum $1,000 cost value, do you only want to see equipment $1,000 or more?**

    A: The construction plan should include all capital costs for the project. The table on page 28 for more information on the documentation needed for construction reimbursement. A template will be provided for deliverable #5 for equipment reimbursement that does not include construction.

61. Q: Regarding contracts, can an NDA be used in lieu of an MOU?

A: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a legal document and ensures that the school and SBHC operator fully understand the scope and breadth of their partnership. In addition to detailing the allocation of responsibilities between partners, the MOU often includes details about data and information sharing, security, insurance coverage, SBHC services provided and parental/guardian consent. If another legal document contains the details above, it may be accepted in place of a MOU.

62. Q: Could the grant ever work in a way where 500K is construction and the health organization covers 250K in equipment? I ask because architects seems to be very interested in a streamlined approach when it comes to flow of money.

A: No, the capital allowed for this project is up to $250,000 for construction.

63. Q: IS the APP on the OH-ID page called GMIS the same as GMISP – or is GMIS the old system and the new one should come up as GMISP?

A: Please use Grants Management Information System Portal (GMISP). GMIS or legacy GMIS is our old system.

64. Q: Do we need to adjust the Word template that was sent to the application formatting listed on page 12 of the RFP?

A: Yes. Please follow the formatting listed in the RFP.

65. Q: The budget for this application in new GMIS looks to be deliverable-based (although the form is not allowing me to add any deliverables). Is there an outline of how much funding can be budgeted per deliverable?

A: No, the SB26 budget should reflect the cost per deliverable. Agencies should determine deliverable amounts based on what the cost is to accomplish the deliverable and may vary by agency and project type.

66. Q: There does not look to be a place for the budget narrative. Do we need to submit this as an attachment and, if so, in what format?

A: The budget justification should be entered into GMIS Portal with the budget.