

School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The purpose of this document is to assist you in preparing your school-based mental health application.

Funding

Are funds in this award available through June 30th, 2024?

Yes, funding for this grant is available through June 2024. Funding is based on appropriation from fiscal year 2024 which started July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024.

What is the difference between the 2.5M funding and 7.5M funding for SBMH? Are they for the same fiscal year?

In fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023) the General Assembly appropriated 2.5M for school-based mental health. This funding was used to support previous pilot work. In fiscal year 2024, (the second year) the General Assembly appropriated 7.5M (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024) to continue this work. Funding for this round of applications (i.e., up to \$400,000) is from the fiscal year 2024 allocation.

Will there be a chance for grant funding to be extended?

The current budget language provides \$7.5 M annually for school-based mental health programs and technical assistance. Language to carry over unspent funds from previous years is not included, however, as we learn more about larger budget decisions regarding school-based mental health, we will communicate updates to school divisions. Ongoing funding for grants will be based on availability of funds and progress toward goals.

Will we have to reapply for funding if we get additional for year 2?

Each year, we will be evaluating applications for ongoing funding based on availability and progress toward goals.

Can we prepay for things past the fiscal year?

Services for this project are from the date your contract is signed to June 30, 2024. At this time, DBHDS can only reimburse grantees for services provided within the period that is covered by the contract. Each year, we will be evaluating applications for ongoing funding based on availability and progress toward goals.

For budgeting purposes, what is the time period? Jan 2 - June 30? If I'm budgeting a staff member what's the timeline if they start in Jan vs Feb?

The period of project timeframe will be based on the dates all signatures are obtained on contracts between your school division and DBHDS. For example, if all signatures are obtained on January 15, 2024, the timeframe of your project will be from January 15- June 30, 2024. You will be reimbursed for services that occur within this timeframe.

Budgeting

If we currently have contracts in place, can the application be written to include the costs from the beginning of the school year, reallocating it from another fund?

Funds from this grant cannot be used to support services that are currently being supported by another funding stream. However, if funding for a service ends, this grant can be used to support continuation of that activity. For example, if your school division is using ESSER funding and it ends December 31, 2023, funding from this grant can be used to continue services (January 1, 2024 onward) started under the ESSER program that meet DBHDS project criteria.

If awarded, would reimbursements be requested through OMEGA, or would we receive the funds up front?

Funds for school-based mental health are managed using our accounting system eVA-the internet-based procurement system used by state agencies and institutions. Upon award, DBHDS will provide Technical Assistance (TA) to school divisions on this process and how you can submit invoices for payment.

If the mental health provider will be providing outpatient therapy, can these funds support any or all of the therapist salary.

Funds can be used to support provider salary as long as the services are being provided at the school division stated in the application. Salary must be reflective of the level of effort the therapist performs at the school division. Funds cannot be used to supplement the Medicaid reimbursement rate for services.

Service Delivery

Can funds be used by community partners to hire personnel (i.e., therapist) to provide services in schools?

The goal of school-based mental health funding is to allow school divisions to enter into partnership with community providers. As such, these funds can be used to support community partners providing services within the school division. Please note, funding cannot be used to hire personnel within the school division.

Does the community partner have to be classified as a mental health provider? For example, would a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary care, including both physical and behavioral health be considered a community partner. The FQHC has psychologists, social workers, counselors, psychiatric providers, and case managers that can work with school division to provide services.

Yes, as a FQHC you would be eligible to partner with schools as long as you have the personnel/capacity to provide mental health support to schools. Within the application we ask that you/the school division outline mental health services provided by your FQHC to the division, the personnel that would providing the services and the background/credentials of those providing the service. Please note, services must be provided within the school.

The budget language states that school divisions can contract for “community based mental health services by community-based providers.” The provider does not have to be classified as a mental health provider, they can be a trained community-based individual, providing mental health supports in schools. For example, Mental Health First Aid Training does not require a person to be a mental health professional, however a community-based organization may



provide this training to the school division. DBHDS reserves the right to review proposed personnel providing services to ensure services/supports fit within the scope allowed under this funding.

Can we work with more than one provider?

Yes, school divisions may contract with multiple providers to deliver services.

Can funding be used to support telehealth services?

Funds can be used to support the delivery of telehealth services for school-based mental health. In the application, we ask you/the school division to provide an overview of the services, personnel who will be providing the services and how you/the school division will ensure privacy for sessions (i.e., physical location). Please note, if you currently have funding for telehealth delivery, this funding cannot be used to supplant existing funds. It can be used to support delivery of telehealth if there are not funds currently being allocated to this service.

If a Community Services Board hired someone could their intervention be in place past June 2024?

School division contracts with DBHDS to provide services would be from the date your contract is signed through June 30, 2024. As such, your interventions should be reflective within that timeframe. Each year, we will be evaluating applications for ongoing funding based on availability and progress toward goals.

The application mentions funds cannot be used for services that are covered by Medicaid. If our community partner provided by a service such as solution focused brief therapy which is reimbursable by Medicaid would this not be allowed under this project?

Funding may not be used to provide services covered by Medicaid. For children with Medicaid coverage, the community partner should bill Medicaid for the service provided. If a child is covered by private insurance, the community partner should first attempt to bill insurance for the services, if not covered by the child's insurance plan, grant funds may be used to cover the cost of the service. Grant funds should primarily be used to cover: (i) the cost of services for children with no insurance coverage; (ii) cost of services for children whose insurance does not reimburse for the service provided; (iii) activities that are not billable through insurance or other third-party. Funds cannot be used to supplement the Medicaid reimbursement rate for services. For example, if the rate for individual counseling is \$15 for 15 minutes, schools cannot use funds to pay \$20 for 15 minutes of counseling by an individual provider. However, schools can pay an individual provider to attend a school mental health planning meeting at a certain rate as this activity is not billable through insurance.

Information Session

Could you share a copy of this PowerPoint with us?

A copy of the PowerPoint used in the information session is available on the Child and Family website under the Announcement section.

Can you share a copy of the budget template with us?

A copy of the budget template is available on the Child and Family website under the Announcement section.

Can you share the links from the information session?

Please see the links below to assist in preparing your application:

- [Office of Child and Family Services - Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services](#)
- [VTSS RIC - Virginia Commonwealth University \(vcu.edu\)](#)



- <https://vtss-ric.vcu.edu/>
- [ALL In VA | Virginia Department of Education](#)
- [School-Based Behavioral Health | Virginia Department of Education](#)
- [Learning & Resource Center For School Mental Health Professionals \(vastudentservices-clc.org\)](#)
- [Learning & Resource Center For School Mental Health Professionals \(vastudentservices-clc.org\)](#)