



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

RFA No. RMO SBH080924

August 27, 2024

Please contact Charneta Scott at Charneta.scott@dc.gov if you should have any further questions

- 1. Question** In exploring the Multi-tiered Services with 2 Clinicians and a Behavioral Health Prevention Specialist option, page 52 of RFA RMO SBH080924 highlights the total funding is \$242,459.00. Does that amount include the supervisor's salary? If it does not, can you clarify what the ceiling amount is for this option?

Answer The portion of the supervisor's salary for the clinicians and Prevention Specialist are to be included in the \$242,459.00. Please keep in mind that the CBO may use the existing pool of School Behavioral Health Supervisors and keep within the 1:6 ratio for supervisor:supervisees.

- 2. Question** Does the \$50,000 minimum salary supplement change based on the number of schools the clinician covers (one school vs. two schools) ?

Answer The note on page 10 of RFA RMO SBH080924 that references that CBOs must at least use \$50,000 of the grant funds to supplement the grant-funded portion of the clinician's salary is not based on the number of schools.

- 3. Question** What equipment is allowable in the budget? Does the grant allow us to purchase equipment and/or supplies? On page 22, the RFA states that the grant is not eligible for this, but page 68 highlights grantees cannot exceed \$5000 for equipment and/or supplies.

Answer Purchase of equipment and/or supplies is not eligible under RFA RMO SBH080924. Purchase of equipment and/or supplies is not eligible under the DBH School Behavioral Health grant. However, a grantee is allowed 10% Indirect cost to use in the manner chosen by the grantee.

- 4. Question** If a CBO is not interested in obtaining an additional school, does the CBO only need to submit the DBH School Behavioral Health Required Innovative Focus Strategy Form?

Answer That is correct. The existing CBO grantees only respond to RFA RMO SBH080924 to apply for the opportunity to match with new schools.

- 5. Question** If a CBO finds success in one innovative strategy, will the CBO have the option to split both clinicians for 4 schools and hire a Behavioral Health Prevention Specialist in the future?

Answer As the SY2024-2025 progresses with a CBO's staffing successes, the CBO, school leadership, and the school behavioral health team may review the utilization of services before exploring proposing a different strategy for the following school year.

6. **Question** In our potential "other" strategy, we were looking at a Prevention Specialist with a supervisor at two identified schools where building a therapy caseload may not be possible. If this option is acceptable to DCPS and to the identified schools, then what we would need to know is the funding that would be available for this configuration.

Answer In the "other" proposed strategy, please include the CBO's proposed funding within the description of the proposed strategy and DBH will follow-up as needed.

7. **Question** If a CBO chose the option to have a therapist shared between two schools, then would the CBO be locked in for the year?

Answer The approved innovative strategy and funding are for the full fiscal year.

8. **Question** We request clarification on why expenses for supplies and equipment are excluded from the RFA. In the practice of behavioral health care, clinicians utilize therapeutic interventions and treatment services such as play therapy which is crucial in working with younger populations. Historically, grants supporting behavioral health care services have included funds for supplies to support therapeutic activities. Lack of such funding is a hardship to clinical providers, especially with general grant funding reductions. The resulting shortage of supplies can jeopardize the rapport building phase with children which can complicate the treatment of younger populations. Similarly, lack of funding for equipment makes it challenging for clinicians to adequately provide required behavioral health support services. School partnerships do not permit provider clinicians to have access to their technology such as laptops, printers, copies, and internet. Providers are required to independently provide this equipment for their clinicians which is challenging with reductions in grant funding. Lack of adequate equipment makes it difficult for clinicians to participate in required DBH meetings and trainings, and limits staff flexibility to offer virtual sessions to connect with client families. Will the agency reconsider funding supplies and equipment expenses for this program? CBO chose the option to have a therapist shared between two schools, then would the CBO be locked in for the year?

Answer There is no reconsideration for funding supplies and equipment under RFA RMO SBH080924. The focus of the grant funding is to support salaries of clinicians, salaries of Prevention Specialists, supporting supervision of clinicians and Prevention Specialists, and workforce development of the clinicians. As noted on page 10 of RFA RMO SBH 080924, CBOs must at least use \$50,000 of the grant funds to supplement the grant-funded portion of the clinician's salary. However, a grantee is allowed 10% Indirect cost to use in the manner chosen by the grantee.