



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

RFA No. RMO SBH102723

November 7, 2023

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

- 1. Question** If a school has a School Strengthening Work Plan with DBH, does that plan satisfy this requirement and can it serve as Attachment D?

Answer: If a school has a completed School Strengthening Work Plan for School Year 2023-2024, it may be identified as Attachment D in your application submission for RFA RMO SBH102723.
- 2. Question** If a school is awarded SBH Expansion Funds, will the school lose the services from the matched CBO?

Answer If a school is awarded School Behavioral Health Grant funds, those Department of Behavioral Health provided grant funds for the identified school(s) will no longer be available for the currently matched CBO partner for the same identified school(s).
- 3. Question** May a school retain services from the CBO partner while the school is in the process of hiring a full time clinicians?

Answer Once a school has a fully executed grant agreement with DBH for identified school(s), the CBO's grant agreement must be modified and the CBO is no longer eligible to receive grant funding for the same identified school(s) under the CBO's grant agreement with DBH.
- 4. Question** May we add the \$8546 to the \$63,153 to make the salary more competitive? Our social workers earn between \$80,000 and \$90,000 plus benefits

Answer The \$8546.55/clinician is one-time funding and must be budgeted under a separate purchase order because it is from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that require a clear audit trail. This one-time ARPA funding ends at the end of FY24 on September 30, 2024.
- 5. Question** May we use SBH funds to hire a search firm specializing in recruiting licensed clinicians?

Answer Hiring a search firm specializing in recruiting licensed clinicians is not an allowable expenditure for the use of the School Based Behavioral Health Grant funds.

- 6. Question** May we apply for one clinician per identified school?
Answer It is allowable for a school to apply for some or all their eligible schools. For each school for which grant funds are applied, it is for 1 full-time clinician for each school.
- 7. Question** Will the Pre-Application Conference recording be posted?
Answer Although the recording of the Pre-Application conference is only for internal use and will not be posted, the slide deck is posted and available at: <https://dbh.dc.gov/page/request-applications-01>.
- 8. Question** Who can provide support around the School Strengthening Work Plan?
Answer The Work Plan that is identified as Attachment D for inclusion in the RFA No. RMO SBH102723 application submission is not the School Strengthening Work Plan and it is not required to be the School Strengthening Work Plan. For the schools that have not yet completed the School Strengthening Work Plan for School Year 2023-2024, use the work plan template (see Attachment D) provided in RFA No. RMO SBH102723.
- 9. Question** Can a school hire two PT Licensed Clinicians to support the 1 FTE requirement. Is that possible, are we restricted to 1FTE only?
Answer As provided on page 12 of RFA RMO SBH102723, "The Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Behavioral Health, Child and Youth Services Administration, is soliciting applications from qualified DC public charter schools to hire a full-time licensed clinician to implement the Comprehensive School Behavioral health model." RFA RMO SBH102723 restricts a school to hiring and placing 1 full-time licensed clinician in the school building.
- 10. Question** In schools where there is a two-generation approach (the students learn in pre-k, the parents of the students are in adult education), and the identified need is for parents, is the licensed clinician able to provide individual therapy to the parent with the identified concern?
Answer "The target populations will include students in traditional DC Public Charter Schools," as provided on page 17 of RFA RMO SBH102723. The licensed clinician is allowed to include the adult learner/adult student in the provision of the prevention, early intervention, and treatment services.
- 11. Question** Will the funding support 1FTE only for each school, or could a school hire 2 FTEs?
Answer As provided on page 12 of RFA RMO SBH102723, "Core funding includes Clinician's cost of salary and a portion of the supervisor's salary (1:6 ratio). This is a full-time clinician providing 40 hours per week in one school."
- 12. Question** How does 1FTE impact the supervisor to clinician ratio of 1:6? Are we still eligible for the entire amount of funding for the supervisor?
Answer The grant funded portion of the supervisor's salary per clinician is \$16,666.67 and supports the supervisor's salary at a 1:6 supervisor to clinicians ratio. As provided on page 18 of RFA RMO SBH102723, "supervisors shall have no more than 6 clinicians in their supervisory group."

13. Question Should LEAs complete one application for multiple school sites (per page 26 of the RFA), or should an LEA complete a separate application for each eligible school within their network?

Answer It is sufficient for LEAs to submit one application for multiple school sites within the LEA's network and clearly list the school sites for which the application applies.

14. Question If an LEA can identify a clinician with the level of credentials required of a supervisor, is it necessary for that clinician to have a supervisor? In that case can the LEA combine the clinician salary and the partial supervisor salary to cover a higher salary for the more qualified clinician?

Answer A supervisor is required for the clinicians regardless of whether the clinician is licensed at the graduate level or the independently licensed level.

15. Question There is a space in the budget template for fringe benefits that could include taxes and benefits, but that is not currently listed on page 12 with the categories of expenses. Can LEAs include fringe benefits in their request, such that the other line items are maintained at the allowable amounts and the fringe benefits are on top of the \$89,366.22 total? Or is \$89,366.22 the maximum amount that will be awarded?

Answer The maximum amount of the award is \$89,366.22.

16. Question What do you expect to happen at the end of this pilot? Do you expect funding to continue? What are the factors that will determine if funding will continue? Is there a timeframe for when schools will have information about continuation?

Answer This pilot is a strategy for increasing the number of school behavioral health providers in the District's schools. The RFA notes on page 13 that funding will be awarded for up to one (1) option year. Currently, it is a pilot that will explore the strengths and challenges of providing funding to the schools instead of providing the funding to the Community Based Organizations. And, it is an opportunity to learn of effective strategies for addressing the workforce shortage. The timeframe of when schools will be informed of the outcome of the pilot and any subsequent determination regarding the implementation and funding model within leveraging the supplemental School Behavioral Health resources has yet to be determined.

17. Question Can you share any additional details about what reporting looks like? If there are templates already created, would it be possible to share those?

Answer The School Behavioral Health Program Activity Tracker (SBHP Activity Tracker), created and overseen by the Program Manager, Ms. Monica Hammock, was officially launched in August 2022. This innovative system operates as a web-based database, constructed on the QuickBase Platform. It is designed to facilitate the daily input of critical utilization data related to different tiers of school-based services within the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, including Foundational, Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 levels.

Featuring an intuitive dashboard interface, the SBHP Activity Tracker effectively monitors various aspects of school-based services. This includes service delivery within schools, partnerships between schools and community-based organizations (CBOs) or the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), as well as assignments for CBO/DBH clinicians in schools, all in accordance with the grant agreement. The system also ensures compliance with established service benchmarks. Notably, DBH has established specific clinician benchmarks within the realm of school behavioral health, outlining the minimum services that clinicians should offer in their designated schools. The SBHP Activity Tracker helps in identifying clinicians who meet or fall short of these benchmarks.

Through an iterative process involving feedback and input from clinicians and supervisors within the School Behavioral Health Program, the SBHP Activity Tracker has evolved into a user-friendly and intuitive data tracking system. This evolution has been further augmented by improvements and enhancements introduced in August 2023, streamlining data entry processes, enhancing efficiency, and increasing data accuracy. Throughout the rollout of the SBHP Activity Tracker, DBH has consistently provided support and resources, including live online training sessions, user guides, and office hours.

One of the standout features of the SBHP Activity Tracker is its capability to generate automated reports. These reports enable real-time monitoring of weekly staffing figures, such as the number of schools staffed with school-based clinicians. Furthermore, this system facilitates seamless data sharing with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools (DCPCS), and other valued partners. As a result, School Behavioral Health now has access to data that can be used to evaluate and inform best practices, supporting strategic efforts to implement continuous quality improvement.

18. Question Will eligible schools who currently have support from a DBH clinician or clinician specialist lose that support if they apply for this pilot?

Answer The eligibility of the school is not related to the staffing from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) – hired provider. If the LEA/school chooses to apply and is awarded the grant, the grant funds will be provided to the LEA/school and no longer provided to the current CBO partner. There will be a modification to the Grant Agreement that the school's CBO partner has with DBH.

19. Question If a school is not on the eligible list but believes they meet the eligibility criteria, what should they do?

Answer The school leader/representative may email Dr. Charneta Scott at Charneta.scott@dc.gov and will be provided further clarification.

20. Question What type of license is required for a clinician? For a clinical supervisor?

Answer

List of Approved Licenses

Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)
Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)
Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor (LGPC)
Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
Licensed Psychologist
Psychology Associate

The license of the clinical supervisor is determined by the DC Health Professional Licensing Board that governs the license held by the supervisee/clinician.

21. Question Is it possible for small schools to share a clinician?

Answer This funding does not support sharing a clinician. As provided on page 12 of RFA RMO SBH102723, the funding supports a full-time clinician providing 40 hours per week in one school.

22. Question We recall discussing the definition of a disrupted partnership before the RFA was announced, but we don't see a definition in the RFA. Is there a definition you can share?

Answer A CBO partnership disruption occurs when the school and/or CBO end the partnership between the Local Education Agency and the CBO.

23. Question Is there funding to support both the LEA/school and the Community Based Organization partner to be simultaneous grant recipients of the DBH School Behavioral Health grant funding for School-Based Behavioral Health Services Comprehensive Expansion for services in the same identified school at the same time?

Answer No. The DBH School Behavioral Health grant funding supports either the LEA/school receiving the DBH School Behavioral Health grant funds or the Community Based Organization receiving the DBH School Behavioral Health grant funds.

24. Question Can schools hire a clinician by contracting with a third-party, or do clinicians have to be school employees?

Answer It is available for schools to contract with a third-party. However, the LEA/school is responsible for ensuring that the contracted provider adheres to the requirements of the Grant Agreement that is between the LEA/school and the Department of Behavioral Health.

25. Question How does this funding affect Medicaid billing for eligible services?

Answer This funding does not have requirements of the LEA/school regarding Medicaid billing.

26. Question [Click here to enter text.](#)
Answer [Click here to enter text.](#)

27. Question [Click here to enter text.](#)
Answer [Click here to enter text.](#)