

How to Fund Health Services in Your School District

The most important thing to know about funding school based health centers (SBHCs) or other school health services is that school districts do not need to shoulder the majority of the costs. Community partnerships can greatly reduce the burden of funding these services. To attract partners and maximize the impact of SBHCs, school districts make contributions to facilities and programs.

FACILITIES

While some facilities require substantial capital investment, others are much more affordable. Services are housed in a variety of spaces, including:

- Converted classrooms
- On-site portables
- Buildings near the school
- Mobile vans

There are various federal, state and local funding options for SBHC facilities including:

- School modernization or construction grants
- Local bond measures with school construction project allocations
- Facilities grants to clinics and hospitals
- Joint-use agreements between cities and districts

WHO SPONSORS CALIFORNIA'S 231 SBHCs?

Every SBHC has a "lead" sponsoring organization. Sometimes this is the district, but most often it is one of the community partners that runs the clinic. Here is a breakdown of who is running the SBHCs in California.

LEAD SPONSOR TYPES	%
Community Clinic	54%
School District	28%
County Health Department	5%
Hospital	4%
Non-Profit Organization	5%
Mental Health Agency	3%

BUILDING SCHOOL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

One of the best ways to fund school health programs is to bring in community partners to provide services. Sometimes there are several partners – one providing medical, another mental health services, and yet another offering dental care. Typically these providers will bring services to a school campus at no cost. They cover their costs by billing insurance programs and securing grants. Partnerships can be formed with:

- Local community health centers, dental clinics or mental health providers
- County health departments
- Hospitals
- Other nonprofit organizations

At the most successful SBHCs, school districts fund a staff position to coordinate SBHC services and manage other school health programs.

SCHOOL HEALTH FUNDING SOURCES

There are a number of funding sources which can be used to fund the district's share of SBHC costs including:

- Title I-A Elementary & Secondary Education Act
- School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities
- Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assist. Act
- First 5
- Safe and Supportive Schools grants
- After School Education and Safety Program (ASES)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) after school grants
- Nutrition and fitness grants

HEALTH CARE REIMBURSEMENT SOURCES FOR DISTRICT RUN SBHCs

When districts choose to run their own clinics they can seek reimbursement for health services. Reimbursement sources include: School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA), Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing, Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP), and Family PACT. In addition, some managed care plans will provide reimbursement for services to plan members.

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE

Partner With Community Providers

Riverbank Unified School District engaged Golden Valley Health Center, a local community clinic interested in establishing a school health center. Through this collaboration, the school district has accessed new sources of state and federal funding to support a state of the art school health clinic that serves students as well as community members.

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

welcomed the non-profit Community Health Centers of the Central Coast onto Santa Maria High School's campus. This clinic bills Medi-Cal for primary health care services. Students now have a comprehensive health center supporting their success.

Apply for Grants

Oakland and **West Contra Costa Unified School Districts** supplement their school health center funding with grants from Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit Program. This is just one example of a funder committed to strengthening the health care safety net by increasing access to health services at school.

Work With County Offices of Education

The Fresno County Office of Education seeks federal reimbursement for school-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities. The County uses that money to pay for a mobile clinic and for a clinician to staff it. The mobile clinic provides needed medical care and immunizations to eight rural school districts.

Fundraise in the Community

Culver City Unified School District holds an annual gala to raise funds for the Culver City Youth Health Center. The district also works with local businesses to put on smaller fundraising events throughout the school year.

Piedmont Unified School District uses the community-driven "Giving Campaign for Piedmont Schools" to help pay for its Wellness Center, which offers mental health services and education.



The new dental clinic at Oakland USD's Ashland REACH Youth Center

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON SCHOOL HEALTH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Join the California School-Based Health Alliance and receive funding newsletters and other valuable guidance on starting up and providing school health service programs. www.schoolhealthcenters.org
- ❖ Sign up for other grant alerts:
 - The Center for Health and Health Care www.healthinschools.org/News-Room/Grant-Alerts.aspx
 - California Department of Education www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/af/
 - U.S. Department of Education - Grants and Forecast of Funding Opportunities www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html
 - First 5 California www.ccfc.ca.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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