



School-Based Health Centers

2023 Update

The Washington State law, RCW 43.70.825, directs the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to establish a school-based health center program. This program expands and sustains the availability of school-based health centers (SBHCs) for K-12 students in statewide public schools. The law focuses on reaching communities that are historically underserved.

In 2022, DOH awarded grants to plan, start-up, operate, or improve an SBHC. Grant awards included:

- 6 planning grants (\$50,000)
- 2 start-up grants (\$250,000)
- 4 operations grants (\$150,000)
- 4 behavioral health improvement grants (\$90,000)
- 1 behavioral health start-up grant (\$250,000)

One grantee said the grant funding “allowed us to invest in the strong relationships that will buoy the SBHC for years to come.”

August 2023



Over 3,000

Medical visits at grant funded SBHC sites



Over 4,000

Behavioral health visits at grant funded SBHC sites



6 plans

Each planning grant successfully completed a plan for starting a new SBHC

Grant Activities

Planning Grants: All grantees assessed needs and engaged with their school and communities. They also developed an SBHC business plan.

Start-Up Grants: Recipients carried out their start-up plan and began offering health services at a new SBHC. They also developed plans to address health equity and sustainability. These will help ensure students have equitable access to health care and that the SBHC has enough funding to stay open.

Operations Grants: Grantees created or updated health equity and sustainability plans for their SBHCs. Many used the grant to increase student involvement, extend SBHC hours and increase services.

Behavioral Health Improvement Grants: Grantees expanded mental and behavioral health services to meet a growing need.

Empowering SBHC Initiatives

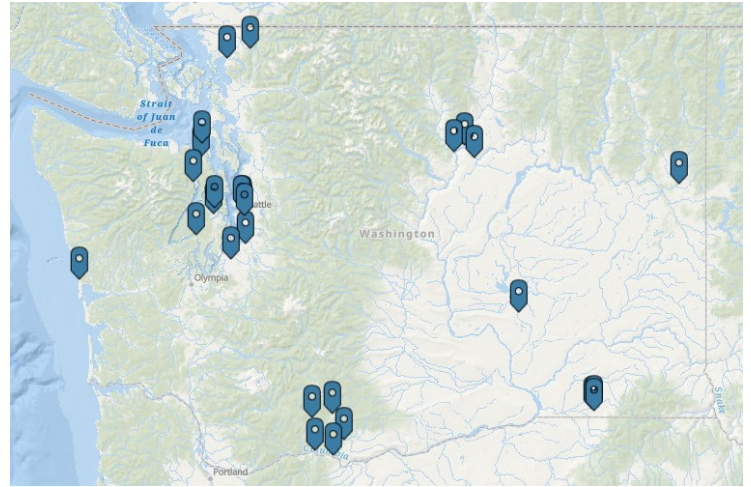
Grantee and SBHC community feedback shows the importance of continued DOH support for community-led SBHC projects.

"It is important that SBHCs have their own identities based on the community they serve." - 2022 SBHC survey respondent

DOH SBHC Program assisted grantees in tailoring workplans and activities to serve each SBHC's needs. The program partnered with the Washington School-Based Health Alliance to offer technical assistance statewide.

DOH worked with partners and other state agencies to identify ways to improve SBHC sustainability and implement changes to make billing and reimbursement easier for SBHCs.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.



Each pin represents a school served by an SBHC receiving funding from a DOH SBHC grant in 2022-2023.

Next Steps

DOH will use the first-year implementation and feedback from the SBHC Community Advisory Board to improve and expand the grant program.

DOH looks forward to working with grantees and partners to boost the SBHCs reach and make health care accessible for young people across Washington.

For more information, visit the [DOH SBHC Program webpage](#).



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DOH 350-040 August 2023