

Call for Proposals: Expanding Preventive Oral Health Services in School-Based Health Centers

Oral health is critical to the overall health and achievement of children and adolescents. Dental caries, the disease that causes cavities, remains the most common chronic condition of childhood – in spite of it being preventable in virtually all children. Nonetheless, nearly half of all kindergartners have already experienced tooth decay, which indicates the disease has been established and needs significant attention to control and/or reverse.

School-based health centers (SBHCs) are uniquely positioned to champion oral health and reduce disparities because of their easy access and provision of care to children and youth who lack access to dental care, or have special care needs - especially school-aged pregnant and young mothers. Through providing preventive services such as assessment, screening and fluoride treatment, and creating strong referrals to follow-up dental care, SBHCs play a significant role in the oral health of their community.

The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) invites SBHCs to participate in a 14-month quality assurance collaborative designed to enhance the capacity of school-based primary care clinicians to deliver oral health preventive services. With funding from Kaiser Permanente, NASBHC will provide technical and financial assistance to SBHCs to incorporate oral health promotion, assessment and preventive practices within well-child visits.

Requirements for participation:

- Participating SBHCs must commit to implementing oral health promotion and prevention through the duration of the 14-month collaborative, including a paper-and-pen risk assessment, visual oral screening, anticipatory guidance, application of fluoride varnish, and referral and follow up for diagnostic and treatment services as necessary.
- Participating SBHCs must agree to collect and report baseline data on selected parameters
- Participating SBHC sponsoring agency must commit to NASBHC organizational membership if awarded funding
- Participating SBHCs must have full-time primary care staff on site (at least 30 hours/week).
- Participating SBHCs must demonstrate capacity to collect and report on required encounter data, including assessments, exams, anticipatory guidance, varnishes and dental care referrals.
- Participating SBHCs must be able to deliver specified oral health services to a minimum of 150 unduplicated SBHC patients during the implementation phase (Aug 2012–May2013).
- A minimum of two SBHC staff must participate in online orientation, two online learning sessions, and one-day training on June 24, 2012 at national convention in Albuquerque (travel costs are covered by stipend).

- Participants must commit to have one SBHC staff member attend the 2013 NASBHC Convention (stipend may be used to cover travel costs) to present summary of lessons learned, including outcomes, challenges, and successes.
- Participating SBHCs must demonstrate capacity to provide referrals and follow up in linking students with a dental provider in their community.

What types of technical support and information are available through NASBHC's Oral Health initiative?

Participating collaborative members will receive the following technical support over the course of the 14-month initiative:

- Online orientation to preventive oral health services
- Two online learning sessions and one on-site learning session covering:
 - ✓ Public health overview of oral health promotion and practice
 - ✓ Normal dental development and common oral pathology
 - ✓ Dental caries; fluoride varnish
 - ✓ Dental trauma and emergencies
 - ✓ Oral-systemic health interactions and children with special health care needs
 - ✓ Connection between oral health, primary care, and nutrition
 - ✓ Establishing a supportive oral health community referral network
- On-going phone consultation and support from NASBHC, expert faculty, staff and collaborative members
- Online virtual community platform with participating SBHCs, trainers, and NASBHC staff for sharing resources and technical assistance.

What can participating collaborative members expect from NASBHC?

- A \$15,000 stipend to each participating SBHC to support training and implementation (including travel, materials, and supplies)
- Curriculum, faculty, and handouts for orientation, online, and in-person learning sessions.
- Ongoing technical assistance, coaching, and feedback throughout 14-month initiative

How will participating collaborative members be selected?

NASBHC staff and expert advisors will review all applications. SBHCs will be selected on merit of application. Criteria for selection of applicants are:

- Commitment of SBHC, sponsoring organization(s) and community partners to the goal of integrating oral health promotion and prevention into existing school-based primary care practice
- Adequate SBHC enrollment and annual encounters to generate 150 oral health assessment/visual exams during project period
- Description of system for dental care referral and follow up
- Evidence of public and private reimbursement policies for medical provider-delivered preventive oral health services
- Applicant's knowledge of scope of practice laws and prescriptive policies that enable SBHC to perform preventive services, including application of fluoride varnish

Application Deadline: March 30, 2012

Notification of acceptance will be made in late April 2012.

Expanding Preventive Oral Health Services in School-Based Health Centers

APPLICATION OUTLINE

1. Letter of Intent

Brief letter expressing intent of SBHC to submit an application for participation (see attached template). Deadline for Letter of Intent is March 16, 2012.

2. Statement of Need

Brief statement of oral health needs among school and targeted SBHC population (limit 250 words).

3. About the SBHC

- Name of school-based health center
- Name and location of school(s) where health center is located
- Short description of sponsor agency and other collaborating partners
- Letter of commitment from sponsor agency
- Short description of school population
- Hours of health center operations
- Total annual operating budget for site
- Description of current oral health efforts conducted in school or by SBHC

4. SBHC Users

- Number of SBHC enrollees for current school year
- Number of SBHC annual encounters
- SBHC users by age
- SBHC users by race/ethnicity
- SBHC users by health insurance status

5. SBHC Staff

- Description of SBHC team by function/role (include FTEs)
- Names of, brief bio-statement, and letter of commitment from two staff members participating in national training program, June 24, 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico (if proposal is accepted)

6. SBHC Data

- SBHC MIS capacity and current performance reporting requirements
- Capacity/experience with third-party billing and collection
- Description of how data collection for this project will be managed and/or implemented

7. Practice and Reimbursement Policies

- Description of relevant state policies, licensure and regulation issues (including scope of practice and Medicaid reimbursement issues), that will facilitate or impede project goals

8. Dental Referral Network

- Description of oral health referral network for children identified with diagnostic and treatment needs
- Provide letters of support from no more than four community oral health providers

9. Oral Health Promotion and Prevention in Community

- Description of existing relevant school- and community-based efforts to promote oral health and improve access to care for school-age youth

10. Sustainability

- Clear description of SBHC's plan for sustaining oral health services beyond the 14-month initiative (including possible collaboration with community-based services)

Application deadline is March 30, 2012 at 5:00 PM EST

- Application page limit (not including letters of support/endorsement): Eight pages, single-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font
- A technical assistance webinar regarding this RFP will be held on March 6, 2012 from 3-4 PM (Eastern). Register for this webinar at:[<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/329207345>]
- All applications and questions must be sent via email to:
programs@nasbhc.org



Bringing Health Care To Schools For Student Success

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Letter of Intent

SBHC Program/Sponsoring Agency:

Address

SBHC Sites(s):

Date

Dear National Assembly on School-Based Health Care,

This letter confirms the intentions of _____ (SBHC Program) to submit an application for the 14-month NASBHC Oral Health Collaborative by March 30, 2012. This document is not an application.

SBHC school(s) location (city, state):

Number of SBHC enrollees for current school year:

Age Range of SBHC Patients:

Signed,

SBHC Sponsoring Organization administrator