



School Health Professional Grant Program

Addendum for the School Health Professional Grant RFP 2nd release (10/8/14)

The purpose of this document is to clarify the intent of the School Health Professional Grant respective to the school health professional role and the primary focus of the program.

- **This funding opportunity is designed to provide matching funds to eligible education providers pursuant to the requirements of the School Health Professional Grant Program (22-96-101 through 22-96-105 C.R.S.).**
- ***This program will enhance the presence of school health professionals in secondary schools throughout the state to facilitate better screening, education, and referral care coordination for secondary school students with substance abuse and other behavioral health needs.***
- **School Health Professionals include school nurses, school psychologists, school social workers and school counselors.**
- **These school health professionals must be state certified or eligible for certification by the Colorado Department of Education under the special service provider licensure.**
- **Individual awards for Education Providers will be granted depending on the number of health professionals added, which will bring the student-to-school health professionals to the recommended ratio.**
- ***Allowable school health professional services or activities include:***
Increasing the presence of school health professionals in secondary schools to provide substance abuse and behavioral health care to students;

Providing training and resources for school staff on the implementation of evidence-based programming on substance abuse prevention education for students;

Allowing school health professionals to connect students with services that are provided by community-based organizations for treatment and counseling for students who are at risk for substance abuse.

The Center for Disease Control's Healthy People 2020 recommends one school nurse for every 750 general education students. However, many school nurses in Colorado are responsible for as many as 6,000 students. Other recommended ratios include one school counselor for every 250 students and one school psychologist for every 500-700 (with a maximum of 1,000) students. The lack of health care professionals makes it difficult to provide the social-emotional support students need.