

Q: I was just reading about the School Health Professional Grant Program (SHPG) in the Scoop. After reading the RFP I just wanted to clarify the funding timeline. It says that Districts that are awarded funds this year will need to spend by June 30th, 2015. Would that mean that anyone we hire to implement curriculum or programs would only be funded through the end of the 14-15 school year?

A: Yes, funds need to be spent by June 30, 2015 and there is no carryover. We are hopeful for continued funding but there are no guarantees.

Q: For the School Health Professional Grant Program (SHPG), is the letter of intent mandatory? Or may applicants still submit a proposal if they haven't gotten a letter of intent in on time?

A: The LOI is not mandatory, but preferred for effective planning purposes. Please feel free to submit an application even if you have not submitted a LOI.

Q: Are 6th grade students (at middle schools) not eligible to be served?

A: The grant covers grades 7-12. If your transitional services cover this age range however, along with grades 7 or higher, the proposal will be reviewed in entirety.

Q: How will you measure a school's ability to continue to sustain (ongoing) an increase in FTE?

A: The review committee will be evaluating the level of commitment to systemic changes and education/prevention efforts that demonstrate a plan to identify and provide care coordination support for students who are struggling with mental and behavioral health as well as substance use concerns.

Q: Does the school health professional for this grant have to be the school nurse or psychologist? Can it be an increase in health paraprofessional FTE to allow more health office hours spent on substance and behavioral care.

A: The school health professionals need to be licensed school practitioners or eligible for CDE licensure; this includes psychologists, nurses, counselors and social workers.

Q: How should schools chartered by CSI (a non-geographically defined district) count the number of dispensaries in the district?

A: Reviewers will be evaluating the overall access to drugs, marijuana dispensaries etc... in the community, as well as disciplinary actions related to all substances.

Q: Can the 10% match include the salary of supervisors of the health professionals?

A: No, the match needs to be related to direct care providers and/or programs directly impacting the behavioral health care needs of students.

Q: How about the role of Colorado certified prevention specialists?

A: If the school psychologist, counselor, social worker or nurse is also a certified prevention specialist, yes. Please include all of the health service team when applicants are describing the current capacity to meet student behavioral health needs.



Q: How about licensed mental health therapist or Chemical Dependency Counselor that is state licensed but not licensed by CDE?

A: The school health professionals included are a school psychologist, counselor, nurse or social worker currently licensed by CDE or eligible for licensure. If the professionals in these roles have specialty substance use or mental health intervention certifications/specialties in addition to this qualification, they will be considered.

Q: Can we use funding to contract with licensed professionals from community agency partners?

A: Yes, if the services and professional hired is school based and provides services to the student population.

Q: So the match doesn't need to be "new" activities?

A: The 10% match of FTE's or in kind refers to current services and level of support and resources in place, as well as strategies and programs planned for the 2014/15 school year that are currently funded by the applicant.

Q: Is cigarette smoking considered substance abuse for this grant?

A: The SHPG primarily addresses building capacity related to hiring school health professionals who will be addressing the behavioral and mental health needs of students, regardless of the substance or particular disorder.

Q: Are growing operations within district boundaries considered marijuana establishments, or just dispensaries?

A: The RFP specifically state retail marijuana establishments. Please include all access issues and data that reflect this related to marijuana and substance use in your school(s) community.

Q: How many grants do you anticipate giving?

A: There is no set number of grants, but approximately 2.5 million dollars will be awarded. The grant amounts will be varied and dependent upon the proposal's needs assessment and overall plan to build sustainable capacity to serve the needs of students.