



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

“SHINE KY Local Grant Program”

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“Strengthening Health Integration iN Education for Kentucky Students (SHINE KY) Local Grants to Support School-Based Services”

A. Announcement and Purpose

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) is making available grant funding to allow local education agencies to address critical gaps and enhance existing behavioral health services in its school-based Medicaid program.

The goals of the SHINE KY local grant are to:

1. Improve access to behavioral health and wellness services within school settings.
2. Integrate behavioral and mental health services into academic environments.
3. Promote early identification and intervention for student wellness needs.
4. Strengthen partnerships between schools, community partners, and families.
5. Advance health equity and reduce disparities in student access to care.

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to solicit applications that support the implementation and/or expansion of school-based behavioral health services across the Commonwealth. Funding will allow selected grantees to build or enhance their people, process, or technology systems infrastructure to support delivery and access to quality behavioral health services within school settings. This NOFO was developed with input from cross-sector collaborators and representatives from local schools, state agencies, advocacy groups, and relevant associations.

Questions and Answers

- **Q1-** Would this opportunity be eligible for those who are community based and provide services in the schools? We are a behavioral health service organization. We see children in the school daily.
 - **A1-** Eligible applicants are Local Education Agencies.
- **Q2-** Would an alternative public secondary school be eligible to apply?
 - **A2-** Eligible applicants are Local Education Agencies.
- **Q3-** Can the funding for an approved project be earmarked for that purpose and spent over a period of 3 years?
 - **A3-** The applicant must demonstrate how grant funds will be spent during the grant period (7/1/2026 through 6/30/2027). The grant award is a one-time disbursement of funds at the onset of the grant period. If the applicant needs to spend a portion of the dollars beyond the initial grant period, please provide a justification in the budget narrative.
- **Q4-** Is this a one-time grant, or if this is a yearly funding opportunity, would our school be eligible to apply again in future years?
 - **A4-** This is a one-time grant. The grant award is a one-time disbursement of funds at the onset of the grant period. Funding for future years is not available.
- **Q5-** If we propose to hire a School Based Medicaid Coordinator, is there a salary/hourly rate that is recommended? Or is there a minimum or maximum amount that can be paid? Also- are fringes allowable expenses? If so, will these be at the federal or state rate?
 - **A5-** The grant does not specify compensation requirements for a School Based Medicaid Coordinator. Please refer to the Kentucky Department of Education for any requirements regarding educational staff credentials and compensation.
- **Q6-** Could funding be used to provide a second school-counselor position to help with the mental health load and need for student interventions?
 - **A6-** Funding can be used to hire additional staff in support of managing, coordinating and billing services for Expanded Access services, focusing on behavioral health. However, this staff can't be a Medicaid-enrolled provider who would bill Medicaid for the school-based services during the grant period.

- **Q7-** Could funding be used to provide a teaching position responsible for remediating behavior and supplying some type of program that is behavior-specific when a student is given a consequence such as in-school suspension.
 - **A7-** Funding can be used to hire additional staff in support of managing, coordinating and billing services for Expanded Access services, focusing on behavioral health. However, this staff can't be a Medicaid-enrolled provider who would bill Medicaid for the school-based services during the grant period.

- **Q8-** We currently have a contract with an outside billing agency for SBHS and use their software because it is well maintained and provides excellent support. Can this funding be used to pay the fees for their services?
 - **A8-** Yes, this funding can be used to pay fees for technology that will enhance the delivery and sustainability of school-based behavioral health services.

- **Q9-** My understanding is that this funding cannot be used for salary or contracted services if those services are billable to school-based Medicaid, regardless of whether the provider actually submits claims. Is that correct?
 - **A9-** Funding can be used to hire additional staff in support of managing, coordinating and billing services for Expanded Access services, focusing on behavioral health. However, this staff can't be a Medicaid-enrolled provider who would bill Medicaid for the services during the grant period.

- **Q10-** The Notice of Funding Section D indicates that to be eligible applicants should be enrolled as Medicaid Expanded Access provider. Is that a must be enrolled or preferred? If we are not already expanded access provider, would our application be rejected before consideration?
 - **A10-** As noted in Section D, if the applicant is not already an enrolled Expanded Access provider, the applicant should provide evidence in their NOFO response that their Expanded Access enrollment application has been submitted. This is a requirement for funding.

- **Q11-** Can a regular school based Medicaid district apply for expanded access at any time or is this only allowed at the initial annual application?
 - **A11** – A local education agency may apply for Expanded Access at any time throughout the year. Please see [School Based Medicaid Services - Kentucky Department of Education](#) and complete the amendment form to add Expanded Access.

- **Q12-** How would you like to receive the letter of intent and what type of formatting is required for the letter?
 - **A12** – Please refer to Section I of the NOFO for instructions regarding the letter of intent to apply. Applicants may submit the letter of intent in PDF or Word format.