

Update on Federal Funding for School-Based Health Centers August 16, 2010

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Health Care Legislation contains two main sections that affect school-based health centers (school-linked centers are not addressed specifically). Authorization for school-based health centers was the critical piece, so that centers could be recognized and eligible for federal funding. The centers were authorized in the approved legislation, but the final Senate version did not contain an appropriations recommendation. The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care and the state associations, such as the NC School Community Health Alliance, are still working to get the authorization appropriated. Senator Hagan and her office have been actively supporting. We are requesting help from Congressman David Price's office with an amendment to the appropriations package after Congressional Recess. The House version of the Health Care Legislation contained \$200 million over the 4-year authorization period, so that is the request for amendment to the appropriations bill.

The second approved initiative was \$200 million over 4 years for capital needs. It was intended by Senator Stabenow from Michigan, who found savings from elsewhere, to be emergency operational funding for centers that had lost state funding and were threatened with closure or cut backs, or to centers with increased patient loads due to loss of insurance. In writing the final version, whether thinking that capital dollars would get out more rapidly, or whether confusing the centers with Community Health Centers that had already received millions in operations, the bill writers changed the funds to capital (equipment and construction).

Latest update from the national organization:

SBHCs received a provision in the health reform legislation mandating \$200 million in federal funding, restricted for facilities and equipment needs. Recently, HRSA cancelled their initial FY 2010 School Based Health Center **Equipment** (HRSA-10-276) funding opportunity in response to the high volume of questions they received from the SBHC field concerning the application criteria, the cap for multi-site school-based health centers, and the limited application development time.

What We Expect

** Please note -- the following information is not official, and is based on the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care's conversations with HRSA -- details could change*

- ? HRSA will issue **the new grant guidance in mid-to-late September**
- ? The **grant will include construction, equipment, and renovation**
- ? You will have 60 days to complete the application after the grant guidance is issued
- ? Grant recipients will have **money in-hand by early 2011**

- ? New SBHC programs that are not yet operational will be eligible to apply for the funding
- ? NASBHC expects that the work already done on proposals will not have been in vain -- it can be used in this next round
- ? Questions that remain from the original grant RFP will be addressed by the time the RFP is issued

NASBHC/NCSCHA Suggest the Following for those interested in applying:

- ? Register at www.grants.gov if you haven't already done so
- ? Get a DUNS number
- ? If you are planning on applying to purchase equipment go ahead and identify the equipment and have the information on hand
- ? Build relationships with appropriate authorities around school construction **this will vary from community to community*
- ? Know your organization's accounting practices **it may be possible for some organizations to modify these practices before the new RFP is issued . (this is related to concerns regarding some sponsoring organizations' capitalization threshold and/or policies around "bundling" that that proved difficult to overcome in the first short turn-around)*

Continue to visit www.nasbhc.org/federalgrants for the latest updates and resources; or contact Connie Parker at cparker@ncscha.org for guidance.