



## Addressing Youth Nicotine Dependence in School-Based Health Centers Request for Proposals 2023-2024

**Issue Date:** Monday, September 18, 2023

**Applications Due:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 by 5pm

**Eligible entities:** School-based health centers (SBHCs)

**Project period:** November 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

**Award amount:** \$34,000 per SBHC site

### Introduction

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states: “Tobacco use is a pediatric disease: most adult tobacco users initiate use during adolescence; initiation is often connected to parental/peer tobacco use, exposure to tobacco imagery in movies and media, and targeted marketing of tobacco products to youth. Secondhand tobacco exposure is another critical health concern: globally, approximately half a billion children and adolescents are exposed to tobacco smoke at home.”<sup>1</sup>

Most youth that use nicotine want to quit.<sup>2</sup> However, there is a lack of evidence base for addressing youth nicotine use. The rapid increase in popularity of unconventional nicotine products has resulted in more reactive strategies being implemented by health practitioners and school officials to address the issue. Exacerbating the problem, nicotine products currently on the market often have much higher levels of nicotine than traditional products (such as cigarettes and smokeless tobacco).

The Ohio School-Based Health Alliance (“Ohio Alliance”) is partnering with the Nicotine Recovery Unit, within the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), to strengthen current practices and procedures in school-based health centers (SBHCs) that address nicotine dependence among youth served. This opportunity is made possible through support from ODH.

*The Ohio Alliance is a professional, nonpartisan, nonprofit<sup>3</sup> organization headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio Alliance serves as the only statewide organization created to advance and support the sustainability and expansion of school-based health care. Since 2010, the organization has been designated as the state affiliate of the national School-Based Health Alliance. ODH has contracted with the Ohio Alliance to serve as the administrator of this initiative.*

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<sup>1</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. AAP.org. Accessed September 15, 2023. <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/tobacco-control-and-prevention/>.

<sup>2</sup> Wang TW, Gentzke AS, Creamer MR, et al. Tobacco Product Use and Associated Factors Among Middle and High School Students —United States, 2019. MMWR Surveill Summ 2019;68(No. SS-12):1–22.

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6812a1external\\_icon](http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6812a1external_icon).

<sup>3</sup> The Ohio Alliance was relaunched in 2021 as a fiscally sponsored initiative of [Health Impact Ohio \(dba Access Health Columbus\)](#), a 501(c)(3) Regional Healthcare Improvement Collaborative based in Columbus, Ohio.



**Request for Proposals**

The Ohio Alliance will award four (4) Ohio SBHC grantees funds to support the development and integration of a robust tobacco/nicotine screening and referral process into their SBHC services. This opportunity will be available only to SBHCs that do not already have robust, evidence-based screening and referral protocols in place.

**Program Project Goals**

The overarching goals of the project are:

- Increase awareness of the issues concerning youth nicotine dependence.
- Increased support for enhanced practice workflows that will prioritize provider screening for nicotine use.
- Increased identification of youth nicotine use.
- Increased referrals of youth to nicotine dependence treatment.
- Increased participation by nicotine-dependent youth in identified nicotine treatment programs.
- Decreased prevalence of youth nicotine use.

**Project Components**

**Each awarded SBHC site will receive funds (a total of \$34,000) to implement and/or strengthen tobacco screening and treatment referral integration into their SBHC services.** Participating SBHCs will be expected to execute the following standard set of deliverables to address the youth nicotine use epidemic:

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Awarded amount <i>per SBHC site</i></b>
All clinical staff in the SBHC will attend AAP "Act-Counsel-Treat" virtual training offered by ODH and participate in a clinical practice workflow development session	\$5,000.00
Recruit principals, teachers, guidance counselors, and coaches in the school district served by the SBHC to participate in a 1-hour virtual nicotine screening and referral training provided by ODH. <i>Document at least 20 non-clinical participants engaging in the training, with at least one non-clinical participant from each of the following categories: principal, teacher, guidance counselor and coach.</i>	\$4,000.00
Provide the Ohio Alliance with SBHC data at baseline and monthly for the duration of the project period. See Evaluation section for additional information.	\$9,000.00



Adopt, implement, and document a screening and referral workflow system change in SBHC (using ODH-provided resources) to ensure all youth receiving at least one service from an SBHC are screened for tobacco and nicotine use. \$8,000.00

Provide verification that all youth receiving at least one service from the SBHC have been screened for nicotine use and document challenges/obstacles experienced in achieving this goal. \$5,000.00

Participate in a quarterly virtual learning community meeting with SBHC sites, the Ohio Alliance and ODH (*total of 3 sessions*) \$3,000.00

Total awarded amount:  
\$34,000 per site

**Evaluation**

The Ohio Alliance will provide a template and technical assistance to support data collection.

Data focused on youth SBHC visits, tobacco/nicotine screening, treatment referral, and secondhand smoke exposure are anticipated to be collected at baseline and submitted to the Ohio Alliance each month of the project period (November 2023 – June 2024).

SBHC sites will be required to submit a final report and process/workflow change documentation. The final report will include summary data, lessons learned, and identify challenges and successes experienced in implementing the project deliverables.



## Proposal requirements and application instructions

### Participation Criteria

- You are an SBHC sponsor/provider in Ohio interested in strengthening tobacco/nicotine screening and treatment referral processes.
- You do not currently have a robust screening and treatment referral process in place at your SBHC site.
- You will implement the project deliverables, monitor and report on metrics related to the project goals, and attend all required trainings and meetings.

**Proposal deadline:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 by 5pm

**Submission instructions:** Email your proposal (include SBHC sponsor name in proposal title) in PDF or word document format to: Rachael Schilling, Ohio Alliance Program Manager, at [rachael@osbha.com](mailto:rachael@osbha.com) by the proposal deadline.

*For questions on the RFP, please contact Rachael Schilling, Ohio Alliance Program Manager, at [rachael@osbha.com](mailto:rachael@osbha.com)*

***Only complete proposals will be reviewed. Please include the following Sections and component responses clearly delineated in your proposal.***

### **Section 1. Overview and Background**

Please provide background information, including:

- a) SBHC provider sponsor name and address
- b) SBHC site name and address (including county)
- c) SBHC school building and district name
- d) Name and contact information (title, organization, email, phone) of the staff member who will act as lead for the grant activities, including evaluation, data collection, reporting and grant funds tracking.
- e) Name and contact information (title, organization, email, phone) of the person authorized to sign a grant agreement.
- f) Information about your center, including:
  1. Population served (i.e., students; students and staff; students, staff and community; etc.)
  2. Number of students served
  3. Student/community demographics
  4. Community description
  5. Any additional relevant information

### **Section 2. Intervention Plan**

- a) Describe your SBHC's current tobacco/nicotine screening and referral process or indicate if you currently do not screen and/or refer for tobacco/nicotine use.
- b) Identify how you propose to *implement or strengthen* your SBHC's tobacco screening and referral process, including:
  - a. A detailed description of the workflow system change proposed to ensure all youth receiving at least one service from the SBHC are screened for tobacco and nicotine use.
  - b. Identification of the screening tool you will use. Utilization of one of the validated screening tools listed [here](#) is recommended.
  - c. A detailed description of the workflow system change proposed to ensure youth are referred for treatment, and that level of treatment is tailored to dependence level and readiness for change.
  - d. Potential barriers that may be encountered in implementing the proposed workflow system changes and how you will overcome those barriers.
- c) Plan for how you will engage non-clinical school district staff in your efforts and in a virtual nicotine screening and referral training provided by ODH.

### **Section 3. Challenges and Technical Assistance**

- a) Identify any challenges you anticipate related to implementing your intervention plan, completing deliverables, and documenting outcomes of interest.
- b) What technical assistance and training opportunities or educational sessions would be beneficial in helping your organization implement the intervention plan and complete the deliverables?

**Section 4. Evaluation Plan and Data**

- a) Describe how you plan to document workflow changes, screening and referral processes, lessons learned, and opportunities and challenges.
- b) Indicate whether you currently collect each metric below and describe the process for both documenting the data (e.g., noted in EHR or written patient record) and obtaining the data point (e.g., retrieved from EHR system). If a metric is not currently collected, describe your plan for implementing a data collection and reporting process. Please duplicate the table below in your proposal response.

Metric	Currently collected (YES/NO)	If YES, current process for documenting/obtaining data	If NO, proposed process for documenting/obtaining data. If collecting the data is not possible, please describe the obstacle(s) faced.
1. Number of unduplicated students that received at least one service from SBHC			
2. Number of unduplicated students screened for tobacco/nicotine by SBHC provider			
3. Number of unduplicated students referred for			

tobacco/nicotine use treatment.			
4. Number of unduplicated students screened for secondhand smoke exposure.			
5. Number of SBHC visits related to asthma			

**Please identify any *other* data/metrics you collect on tobacco/nicotine use or a related outcome:**