

Division: Behavioral Health

Program Characteristics: Backfill Other Funds

Program Description

Since 1969, Multnomah County has been a national leader in providing access to mental health services in schools. School Based Mental Health (SBMH) professionals serve children and teens with mental health needs in 34 elementary, middle and high schools across multiple districts in Multnomah County. Providing mental health assessment and treatment in schools decreases barriers such as stigma, cost, and transportation.

Cultural alignment with students improves their therapeutic alliance with SBMH clinicians, which helps address mental health concerns, build trust, and improve school attendance. This culturally-specific approach contributes to youth completing school, a strong indicator for lifelong economic wellbeing and improved overall health. SBMH Mental Health Consultants provide screening, crisis intervention, mental health assessment, clinical case management, and individual, group, and family treatment. They also provide training and consultation to school staff to optimize educational planning for youth with mental health concerns.

Multnomah County and School Districts collaborate to address the continuum of needs for students and their families and to fulfill the School District's mandate to provide these services. In FY 2027, the program will operate under a model that continues to invest in quality improvement efforts to increase revenue through billable services and build sustainability. Information from the Program Evaluation and Design team's FY 2026 program evaluation will be incorporated into the FY 2027 model and operations.

Equity Statement

This program reaches youth who are traditionally underserved and have barriers to accessing mental health services. Clinicians are recruited with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to effectively work with the communities served, with several bicultural and bilingual staff available to work with: LGBTQIA2S+; African-American; Latinx; and Spanish speaking clients. This is an established best practice for achieving equitable health outcomes.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Personnel	\$1,989,047	\$2,526,382	\$3,405,659	\$981,640
Contractual Services	\$75,000	\$7,870	\$0	\$8,000
Materials & Supplies	\$10,775	\$295	\$4,178	\$12,331
Internal Services	\$425,222	\$417,262	\$311,243	\$254,836
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,500,044	\$2,951,809	\$3,721,080	\$1,256,807
Total Expenses:	\$5,451,853		\$4,977,887	
Program FTE	10.61	14.21	17.85	4.97
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,636,336	\$0	\$536,807
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$177,664	\$0	\$0
Service Charges	\$0	\$1,137,809	\$0	\$720,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$2,951,809	\$0	\$1,256,807

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Number of clinical services provided per year	5,906	5,080	5,900
Total number of unique students served by the SBMH program	687	644	687