



Implementing Behavioral Health Urgent Care for Students

Bidder's Conference
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Introductions



MAMH Team:

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Background and Program Goals



The Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc. (MAMH), through a grant from, and in partnership with, Massachusetts General Brigham (MGB), seeks to facilitate access to key components of the **Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care (PBHUC)** model for school-age children and adolescents in the Commonwealth.

MAMH is seeking **five qualifying ambulatory care or outpatient behavioral health clinic entities** (Eligible Applicants) to provide behavioral health urgent care to school-aged children and adolescents in their service area, **collaborating with a school, school district, school-based health center, or similar entity** (School Partner).



Overview of Program Model

Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care (PBHUC) is a multifaceted service providing **timely intervention, stabilization, and treatment for emerging behavioral health conditions** affecting children and adolescents.

In contrast to a psychiatric emergency, urgent behavioral health needs – inclusive of mental health, substance use, and/or co-occurring conditions – are revealed by changes in behavior or thinking, role dysfunction, or emerging but not imminent intent of self-injury or threats to others.

The vision of the grant model is that schools will refer a student with dysregulated behavior or other emerging behavioral health needs to their PBHUC program for immediate support, rather than calling 911 or mobile crisis intervention teams to remove the student from school.

PBHUCs would rapidly assess and provide treatment or refer students to appropriate program options, including mobile crisis intervention teams, if needed.

Why PBHUC is Needed

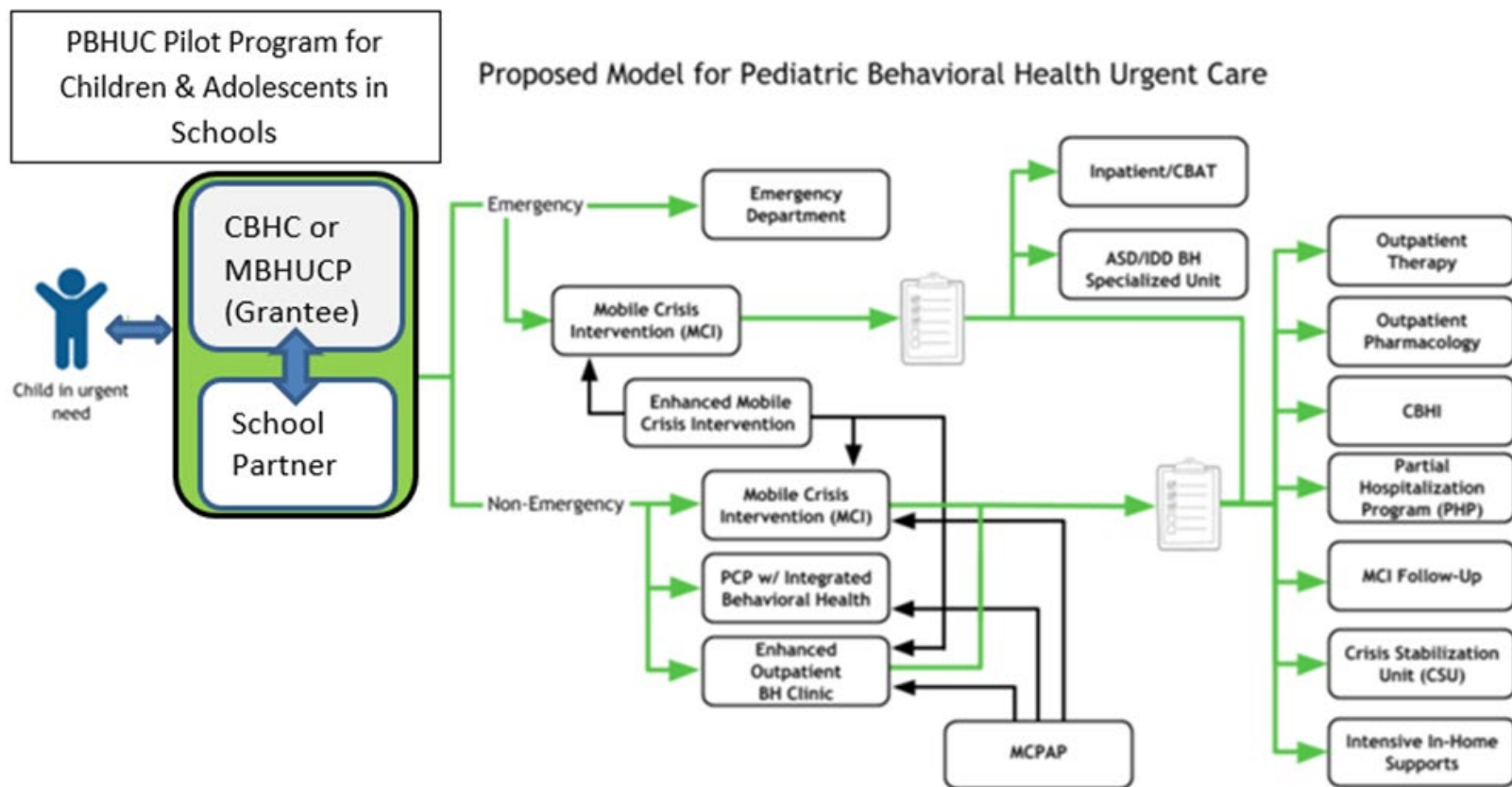


- **Avoid escalation of symptoms and deterioration of role functioning** while waiting for care access
- **Minimize Emergency Department (ED) visits and ED boarding**, given the exceedingly long waits experienced by children and adolescents, especially for those with co-occurring Autism Spectrum Disorder/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ASD/IDD)
- **Provide an effective alternative to the use of school resource officers, police, or 911 crisis calls** in connection with behavioral dysregulation and emotional distress
- **Minimize school expulsions, suspensions, and absences** due to behavioral health concerns

PBHUC as the First Option



The diagram below illustrates the role of the **PBHUC pilot programs as being the first option for providing immediate services to children or adolescents in urgent need** and triaging them to appropriate treatment as required.



Key Components of PBHUC



The five pilot programs will facilitate access for students to **key components of the PBHUC model** including, but not limited to:

- **Staffed walk-in hours** 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday through Friday, with a minimum of six additional weekend hours, with hours on both Saturdays and Sundays
- Services that must include **live reception, rapid assessment, and referral** where needed
- **24/7 access via referral** to crisis and/or mobile crisis services, next day outpatient, partial hospital, and/or crisis stabilization.
- **24/7 access** to lab, medical services, and urgent pharmacological intervention
- **Close observation**, either on-site or via referral 24/7
- **Same-day access to specialized psychiatric consultation** such as MCPAP and MCPAP for ASD-ID

PBHUC Goals



This initiative is designed to **complement and support implementation** of the:

- EOHHS **Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform** (the Roadmap), and
- Children's Mental Health Campaign (CMHC) **consensus model for Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care.**

The **pilot program goals** are to:

- Improve and **expedite timely access** by students to high quality behavioral health care,
- **Improve outcomes** for school-age children, adolescents, and their families, and
- **Provide an effective alternative** to the use of school resource officers, police, 911, and emergency rooms.

Eligible Applicants for Five Pilot Programs



Eligible Applicants are behavioral health provider agencies within the Commonwealth that:

- Have been selected for designation as a **Community Behavioral Health Center** (CBHC) pursuant to the RFR issued Feb. 1, 2022, by the MA Executive Office for Health and Human Services (EOHHS) or
- Are approved and designated as a **MassHealth Behavioral Health Urgent Care Program (MBHUCP)** entity pursuant to the MassHealth Urgent Care Attestation Process conducted by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) or
- Both.

The intent of this initiative is to implement **five pilot programs** for PBHUC.

Priority will be given to partnerships between an Eligible Applicant and a School Partner serving communities of greatest need and/or serving significant numbers of children, adolescents, and families from diverse communities.

Through the application process, bidders will provide information to demonstrate that the community they intend to serve has 1) significant student behavioral health needs, and 2) is culturally, racially, and economically diverse.

Partnerships



Applicants must **demonstrate collaboration with a School Partner** to ensure:

1. Access to **on-site, culturally responsive behavioral health care and referrals at school** during school open hours. Students receive appropriate referrals and support to access enhanced services and hours at the Grantee program site or similar organization.
2. Ongoing **communication between the Grantee and School Partner** to provide comprehensive service planning and delivery.
3. **Transitions back to school** following hospitalization or other behavioral health-related absences are seamless and supportive, aligning with the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) programs or related services.
4. Integrated Autism Spectrum Disorder/Intellectual or Development Disability (**ASD/IDD) services and supports**, aligning with MCPAP for ASD/IDD consultation.
5. **Families are engaged and supported** in accessing services through the Grantee and School Partner.

Performance Assessment



MAMH will conduct a multi-site performance assessment to determine the impact of this initiative. With support from an independent evaluator, we seek to measure the impact on the following outcomes:

1. **Formalized partnerships** between CBHCs/MBHUCP and School Partners
2. **Reduced ED utilization** for behavioral health reasons
3. **Fewer hospitalizations** for behavioral health reasons
4. **Reduced police involvement** at the schools, especially fewer calls to 911
5. **Fewer school suspensions**
6. **Student and family reports of helpfulness of services**

Expectations of Grantees



- Participate in the **multi-site performance assessment**, providing data on those outcomes identified in the grant application and participating in periodic meetings with the assessment team.
- **Report periodically** on the number of students receiving services, the types of services provided, and basic demographics including age and grade, gender identity, race, and ethnicity.
- Participate in meetings of the **Learning Community**, anticipated to be monthly during an initial 6-month start-up phase and quarterly thereafter.

Technical Assistance to Grantees



MAMH will provide **technical assistance to grantees** before and after the go-live date for services. MAMH will:

- Convene and administer a **Learning Community**, addressing such issues such as orientation to the PBHUC Model and the Roadmap, providing effective school-based clinical support for mental health conditions, tools/resources to facilitate successful referral, and financing strategies for sustainability.
- Provide **individualized technical assistance to wrap around Learning Community support**, including limited access to expert consultation, template MOUs and agreements to support integration and alignment with School Partners, and connection to state and national partners and resources.

Grant Award Funding



- Grants will be in the amount of up to **\$170,000 each year** for the grant period of 2 years, 9 months
- Total grant awards in the amount of \$467,500 per grantee
- Payments will be made quarterly

Timetable



Facilitating Student Access to Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care	
MAMH Grant Application Issued	Wednesday, July 13, 2022
Questions Due to MAMH	Monday, July 18, 2022
FAQs Released	Wednesday, July 20, 2022
Notify MAMH of Bidder's Conference Attendance	Thursday, July 21, 2022
Bidder's Conference	Friday, July 22, 2022
Letter of Intent Requested Due Date	Friday, July 29, 2022
Grant Application Deadline (by 6 PM Eastern)	Friday, August 19, 2022
Grant Award Date	Friday, September 2, 2022
Contract Execution	Friday, September 23, 2022
Learning Communities Start-Up	Monday, October 3, 2022
PBHUC Program Services Start Date	January 1, 2023

Grant Application and Resources



Grant guidelines, application, bidder questions,
and other resources are at:

<https://www.mamh.org/about/opportunities>

Please send questions to:

jeniferurff@mamh.org



Questions and Answers