K-12 Infrastructure Grant AOF Q&A Call
11/9/2026

1. **Is it allowable for a community mental health center to use funds to build, expand and/or remodel office space at their agency clinic location that will be utilized by school-based staff such as SBBHL operational supervisor, Project BASIC TA and training space for other school-based staff?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines. It should be noted, as indicated in the AOF, the focus of this grant is enhancing the necessary infrastructure to effectively implement school-based mental health programming.

2. **Outdoor Therapeutic Learning Space: May grant funds be used to develop a therapeutic garden or outdoor wellness learning space on CMHC-owned property directly adjacent to a participating school, provided the space is available to students and School-Based Behavioral Health Liaisons for school-based mental health programming?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines. It should be noted, as indicated in the AOF, the focus of this grant is enhancing the necessary infrastructure to effectively implement school-based mental health programming.
3. **Garden/Outdoor Learning Purchases: If a therapeutic garden or outdoor learning space is allowable, may funding support raised beds, soil, plants, gardening tools, irrigation systems, storage, outdoor seating, shade structures, sensory features, accessible pathways, and other materials necessary to establish the space?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines. Requested funding needs to be directly connected to the overarching goal of the grant. This goal is the development, improvement, or ongoing sustainability of infrastructure for school-based programming.
4. **Shared Infrastructure: Must infrastructure and equipment be assigned to individual schools, or may certain resources be shared among participating schools when the shared model increases access and utilization?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines; these plans shall include how the project will be completed in coordination and collaboration with partnering K-12 schools, as evidenced by a letter of commitment/support from the partnering school district/school(s).
5. **School Climate and Wellness Activities: May funding support curriculum, educational materials, activity supplies, and outside trainers or speakers for school-wide activities addressing mental health awareness, emotional regulation, coping skills, stress management, healthy lifestyles, nutrition, physical activity, sleep, resilience, and other protective factors?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines. As written on page 3 and 4 of the AOF, professional development (for school staff and supervisors) and agency hosted training are examples of allowable mental health related items. Proposed professional development

and training should support fostering positive student mental well-being and emotional development.

6. **Existing School Needs Assessments: Our School-Based Behavioral Health Liaisons complete annual school needs assessments collaboratively with school personnel. May these existing assessments be used as evidence of identified need and shared decision-making if supplemented with a brief grant-specific infrastructure planning form?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines; these plans shall include how the project will be completed in coordination and collaboration with partnering K-12 schools, as evidenced by a letter of commitment/support from the partnering school district/school(s).
7. **Letters of Agreement: If several participating schools are within the same school district, is one Letter of Agreement from the district sufficient, or is a separate Letter of Agreement required from each participating school?**
    a. Provide documentation that there has been direct collaboration with community partners that will be key partners (ex¿partnering.school.districts. or.local.schools¡). It is recommended that individual participating schools are specified in the Letter of Agreement if provided by the school district/local education agency.
8. **Improvements to School Property: Are there restrictions or additional requirements for grant-funded improvements to counseling spaces, calming spaces, outdoor learning areas, or other infrastructure located on school property that is not owned by the applicant?**
    a. Infrastructure projects will be evaluated and scored in accordance with AOF guidelines; these plans shall include how the project will be completed in coordination and collaboration with partnering K-12 schools, as evidenced by a letter of commitment/support from the partnering school district/school(s).
9. **Equipment Ownership: If grant-funded furniture, technology, outdoor equipment, or other property is placed at a participating school, who is expected to retain ownership at the conclusion of the grant period?**
    a. It is recommended that the grantee and partnering school/school district come to an agreement through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify ownership of the items purchased.
10. **Maximum Funding Request: Is there a maximum amount that may be requested by a single applicant, particularly when the proposed project serves multiple schools, districts, or counties?**
        i. Funding Amount: State of Tennessee Cost Reimbursement Grant Contracts may be available to eligible proposals up.to.the total allocation based on the region being applied for, see table below. Proposers should submit a budget based upon an eighteen (18) month budget.

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Region	Population under 18	Allocation
Region 1	111,773	$192,389
Region 2	300,969	$518,042
Region 3	246,706	$424,642
Region 4	163,613	$281,618
Region 5	513,292	$883,502
Region 6	154,485	$265,907
Region 7	252,085	$433,900
Total Pop	1,742,923	$3,000,000