

## Behavioral Health Integration Grant FAQ

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### What is the Behavioral Health Integration Grant?

The Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Grant will provide funding for primary care clinics who are ready to integrate behavioral health into their clinic model and who are at the beginning of their BHI work.

### What is behavioral health integration?

Behavioral health is an umbrella term that includes mental health and substance use disorders, life stressors and crises, stress-related physical symptoms, and health behaviors. Behavioral health (BH) conditions can negatively affect the ability to maintain good physical health, manage chronic illness, and attain optimal quality of life and functioning.

Behavioral health integration brings systematic screening, treatment or referral, and follow-up of BH conditions to the primary care setting. Integrated behavioral health care supports whole-person care, providing access to BH care and support wherever an individual chooses to receive their care.

Providers practicing integrated behavioral health care recognize that both physical and behavioral health factors are important parts of a person's overall health. Medical and behavioral health clinicians work together as a team to address a patient's concerns through onsite BH professionals and through arrangements developed with external BH providers to consult. The advantage is better coordination and communication, while working toward one set of overall health goals.

Behavioral and physical health integration in both primary care and BH settings is a rapidly emerging shift in the practice of high-quality health care.

### What counts as a primary care clinic for this grant?

Primary care is a setting that provides integrated, comprehensive, and continuously accessible health care services. They are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, including preventive services.

Providers in primary care settings develop sustained partnerships with clients and practice in the context of family and communities. A primary care setting is often considered the medical "home" for children and youth. The primary care provider coordinates and oversees both preventive and chronic care, generates and manages specialty and other referrals. They are a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, although they most often work with a multidisciplinary team.

## Who counts as children and adolescents for this grant?

Individuals birth through 18 years of age are considered children and adolescents for this grant.

## Does the organization apply for the grant or only individual clinics?

This grant is for individualized pediatric clinics who are ready to begin integrating behavioral health into their facility.

## How is the allocation of grant money prioritized?

Priority for funding will be given to clinics with the highest proportion of patients enrolled in Apple Health (Medicaid).

## Do arrangements for psychiatric consultation and supervision need to exist at the time of application?

No, they do not need to exist or be implemented when applying, but a plan to create an arrangement must exist and be outlined in the application.

## Does PAL count as a psychiatric consultation arrangement?

Clinics who leverage real-time consultation with Partnership Access Lines (PAL) can provide an overview of how PAL is utilized in their clinic as an answer to that question.

## What does a team-based approach to care look like for a primary care clinic?

A team-based approach includes a model of how patient care is addressed using coordinated efforts among health care providers, such as:

- Primary care provider
- Behavioral health professionals
- Psychiatric consultants
- Patient and patient's family

## What universal screening tools are acceptable?

In the link below there is a list of universally accepted screening tools used within the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Please defer to the recommendations provided in the link here: [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

## What are the credentials of the behavioral health professional we hired or will hire?

If hiring for primary care, the requirement is to have an independently DOH licensed clinician. (licensed MH counselor, Licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed SW and above is required, see the link here: [Mental Health Services Billing Guide \(wa.gov\)](#), part 1)

If hiring for the collaborate care model, see the Physicians Guide for allowable provider types in the link here: [Physicians Guide](#). (Pages 67 – 71)

## Is the HCA looking for local primary care clinics that specialize with youth 18 and under and want to add BH services? Or BH clinics that are adding primary care?

The proviso language is specifically looking at primary care settings/clinics for youth 18 and under that are looking to begin integrating behavioral health.

## Is there a word count restriction?

There is zero-word restriction, however there is a page restriction. 1 page per individual narrative question and 3 pages for the grant proposal. 5 total pages.

## Can you be disqualified from the grant by selecting either of the Covid-19 vaccination certification solicitation questions?

HCA encourages all applicants to answer the COVID related questions accurately. Grant applications will be assessed based on requirements of the grant. For those who are awarded and need to enter contracts with the state, the COVID questions will be looked at on an individual applicant level.

If a clinic has openings for a BH worker that are not getting filled, can they utilize grant funding for Telehealth?

Yes, a clinic can implement telehealth services while they attempt to secure a behavioral health provider.