

THE FACTS: FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

School-Based Health Centers: A Key Link in the Health Care Safety Net

More than 1,900 school-based health centers (SBHCs) across the country provide access to high quality, comprehensive medical care, mental health services, oral health care, preventive care, social services, and youth development to nearly 2 million children and adolescents in 44 states and the District of Columbia. These services are provided regardless of students' ability to pay in a location that meets children and adolescents where they are: at school.

SBHCs provide a broad array of primary care and preventive services, including:

- Comprehensive health assessments (97%);
- Prescriptions for medications (97%);
- Treatment for acute illness (96%);
- Asthma treatment (95%);
- Oral health education (84%); and
- Dental screenings (57%).

Most SBHCs also have mental health providers (75%) who offer mental health assessments, crisis intervention, brief and long term therapy, and other services. SBHCs are the primary – and occasionally only – available health care for many children and adolescents who otherwise would have no access.

As early as 1994, the Government Accountability Office recognized the unique role for SBHCs in the health-care safety net: "Communities are using school-based health centers to fill a niche in the nation's health care delivery system. SBHCs afford children easier access to needed health services by bringing providers to the children, furnishing free or low-cost services, and supplying the atmosphere of trust and confidentiality adolescents need" (GAO/HEHS-95-35).

How SBHCs are Funded

Congress recognized the importance of SBHCs as a key link in the nation's health care safety net by providing \$50 million a year for four years in one-time funding for construction, renovation, and equipment for SBHCs in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (section 4101(a)). **More than 350 applicants from around the nation are seeking funding through the first round of competitive grants created under the law.**

However, most SBHCs depend on funding from state (76%) and/or local governments (37%) for their operations. Half (50%) receive some support from private foundations. Only 23% of centers are sponsored by (and only 28% are even eligible for) funding under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, a major federal funding source directed at providing primary health care for the nation's underserved populations. The vast majority of SBHCs are not eligible for funding provided by section 10503 of the Affordable Care Act, which is limited to 330-funded programs. SBHCs did not receive funding under the federal stimulus.

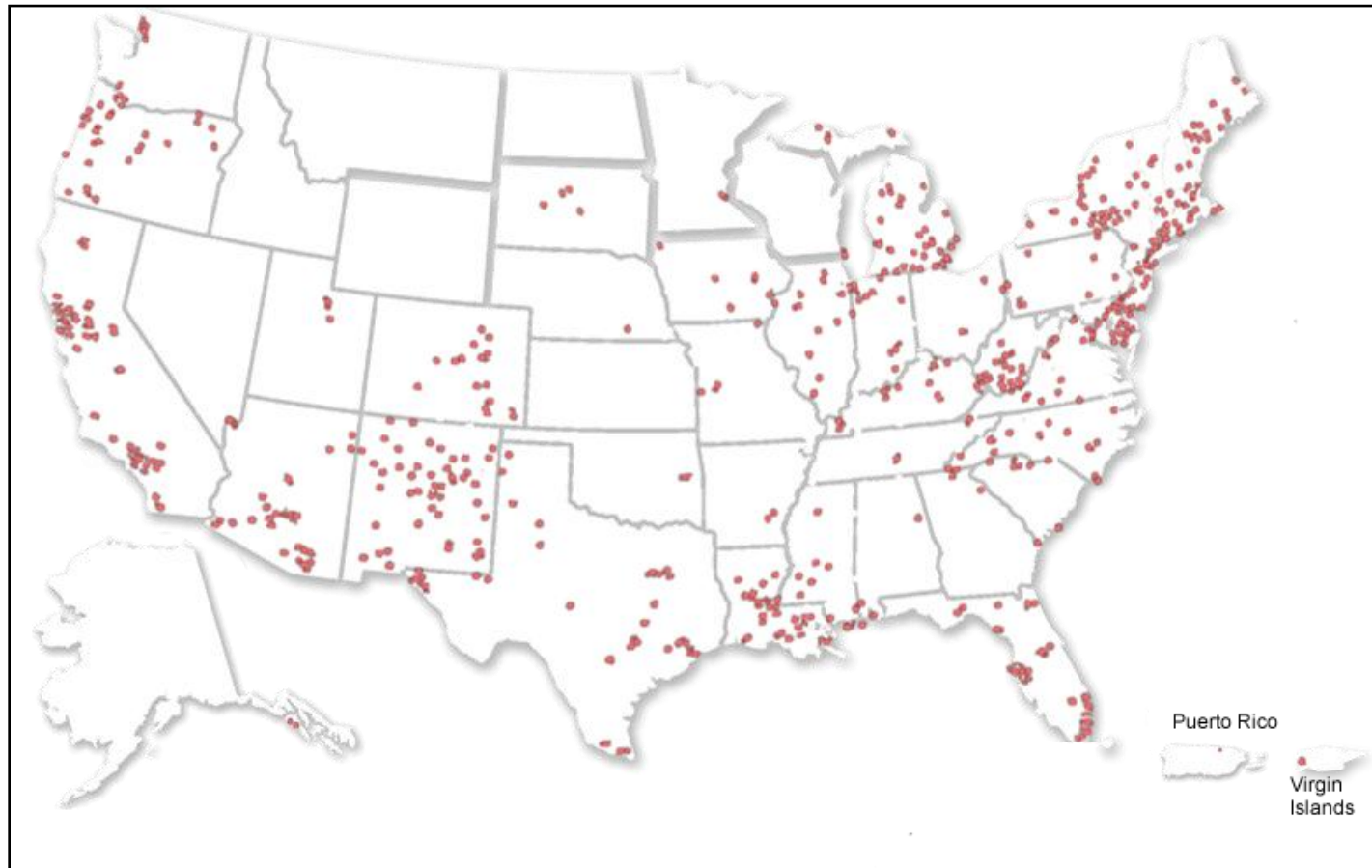
How Federal Funding for Construction, Renovation, and Equipment Will Help Kids Succeed

Providing a one-time series of grants for construction and equipment for SBHCs was the right decision. As noted by the GAO in 2010, almost all of the SBHCs that receive funds from federal grant sources also receive grant funds from nonfederal sources, including state governments and private foundations (GAO-11-18R). Construction and renovation of SBHCs will create local jobs – helping communities and families.

The one-time federal funding provided by the Affordable Care Act will be leveraged with other sources to provide needed primary, mental, and oral health care. No other source of federal funding uniquely supports SBHCs, which is why it made sense for Congress to provide a one-time allocation for construction, renovation, and equipment grants.

Numerous studies have shown that SBHCs keep students healthy and learning. Stronger school-based health centers means a stronger health care safety net – and stronger, more successful children and adolescents.

WHERE ARE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS?



As of November 2009.

Map does not reflect new SBHCs likely to open due to ACA funding

Alabama	5	Indiana	87	Nebraska	1	Rhode Island	2
Alaska	3	Iowa	16	Nevada	6	South Carolina	7
Arizona	81	Kansas	2	New Hampshire	1	South Dakota	6
Arkansas	4	Kentucky	20	New Jersey	40	Tennessee	21
California	160	Louisiana	64	New Mexico	79	Texas	70
Colorado	45	Maine	26	New York	206	Utah	5
Connecticut	79	Maryland	71	North Carolina	49	Vermont	5
Delaware	28	Massachusetts	59	Ohio	17	Virgin Islands	1
District of Columbia	4	Michigan	90	Oklahoma	11	Virginia	19
Florida	245	Minnesota	16	Oregon	51	Washington	29
Georgia	3	Mississippi	31	Pennsylvania	28	West Virginia	50
Illinois	62	Missouri	3	Puerto Rico	2	Wisconsin	8

SOURCE: Strozer, J., Juszczak, L., & Ammerman, A. (2010). 2007-2008 National School-Based Health Care Census. Washington, DC: National Assembly on School-Based Health Care.

For a complete view of NASBHC's 2007-2008 National Census, please visit www.nasbhc.org