

## SBHC Sponsor Types

---

To ensure students receive high-quality health care services, school districts most commonly choose to collaborate with an existing health care provider in their community to establish a satellite site in a school, i.e. a school-based health center (SBHC). The advantages to collaborating with an established provider is that they bring knowledge and trust of the community and have established systems and supportive infrastructure in place, including for staffing, electronic health records and billing, management and administration.

As noted by the national [School-Based Health Alliance](#), collaborating with the right sponsor can make or break a SBHC program's success. Key sponsor attributes to consider when identifying a sponsor include:

- **Leadership Support.** Identifying champions for school-based health care at the highest levels of the sponsor organization who will help assure that resources flow to the SBHC program.
- **Mission & Vision.** Direct alignment between the sponsor and SBHC's mission and vision is vital to ensuring continued investment in school-based health care. Does the sponsor's mission and vision focus on children and adolescents, prevention or integrated models of care?
- **Location.** A potential sponsor will likely have more interest in sponsoring a SBHC program that is located in its service area.
- **Reputation.** Sponsors that are well respected within the community are more likely to draw support from the school and community, as well as positively influence the perception of service quality. Conversely, poorly regarded sponsors can negatively affect SBHC collaboration and utilization.

Common SBHC sponsor types include:

- Community health centers (federally-qualified health centers, or FQHCs)
- Other community clinics
- Hospitals and healthcare systems
- Local public health departments
- Tribal agencies

*[The Health Center](#) in Walla Walla is an example of one community in Washington that met their students' health care needs by creating a new, independent non-profit organization to open and operate their first SBHC, as there were no healthcare agencies in the community able to sponsor a SBHC at the time. A unique model, The Health Center has sustained services and expanded to multiple schools over the past decade with a mission focused on implementing and operating SBHCs and serving school-age students.*

As of early 2022, there are more than 65 SBHC sites, sponsored by more than 25 different agencies, in over 25 school districts—urban and rural—across Washington. More than 60% of SBHC sites in the state are sponsored by FQHCs. See the [SBHCs in Washington](#) page on WA SBHA's website for a current listing of SBHC sites and sponsoring agencies.