



Healthy Kids Make Better Learners

The Connecticut Association
of School Based Health Centers

For Immediate Release: December 28, 2015

School-Based Health Centers Awarded for Medical Home Project

(North Haven, Connecticut) - The Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers, Inc. (CASBHC) has received a \$75,000 grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation to build upon the foundation of an alternative medical home model for school-based health centers in New York and Connecticut. The Patient-Centered School Based Health Care (PC-SBHC) model project began in 2015 and has been approved for a second year of funding to promote school-based health centers as a type of patient-centered medical home that provides primary care coordination for the unique needs of children and adolescents.

In year two, CASBHC will continue to advocate for acceptance of the PC-SBHC model as a recognition pathway toward systems change in Connecticut. CASBHC will sustain a multi-state partnership with school-based health centers in New York to test an alternative model for patient-centered school based health care that will demonstrate performance improvements in patient care, explore reformed payment models for school-based health centers, and advocate among state agencies and policy makers to adopt this new care model as a groundbreaking healthcare innovation.

“While families are encouraged to establish a medical home in the community, school-based health centers in Connecticut report that the vast majority of students utilize their school-based health center as their usual source of care,” said Jesse White-Fresé, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers. “School-based health centers feature unparalleled access to children and adolescents in the school setting and must build upon the many factors that are the hallmark of the integrated care model.”

In 2016, two pilot school-based health center sites from the first year of the project, managed by Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT and Integrated Health Services, will apply to the Primary Care Development Corporation for a certificate of recognition as a Patient-Centered School Based Health Center. In the second year of the project, 2 - 3 additional Connecticut school-based health centers will be recruited and assessed for primary care practice transformation, with a goal of meeting the alternative medical home standards required for recognition.

About the Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers

The Connecticut Association of School-Based Health Centers (CASBHC) is an advocacy and networking organization committed to increasing access to quality health care for all children and adolescents in Connecticut schools. Connecticut’s school based health centers deliver comprehensive health care to students in schools-- where they spend 25% of their day. The

centers have become part of the essential system of care for children and adolescents, providing physical, mental health, and oral health services to over 44,000 students in 22 communities annually.

Over the past 20 years, members of CASBHC have collectively established a strong base of support for school-based health centers in Connecticut through community engagement, delivery of quality services, advocacy and effective marketing. Today, there are more than 96 school based health centers in the state, and the number keeps growing each year.

For more information about Connecticut school-based health centers, including their locations town-by-town, visit www.ctschoolhealth.org.

About the Connecticut Health Foundation

The Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) is the state's largest independent health philanthropy dedicated to improving lives by changing health systems. Since it was established in 1999, the foundation has supported innovative grantmaking, public policy research, technical assistance and convening to achieve its mission - to improve the health of the people of Connecticut. Over the past 16 years, CT Health has awarded grants totaling close to \$57 million in 45 cities and towns throughout the state.

In 2013, CT Health announced a five-year strategic plan that made expanding health equity the foundation's central focus. For CT Health, health equity means helping more people gain access to better care, especially people of color and underserved populations. Better care includes physical, mental, and oral health.

For more information about the foundation, please visit www.cthealth.org or contact vice president of policy and communications, Elizabeth Krause, at elizabeth@cthealth.org or 860.724.1580, ext. 14.