



Youth Healthcare Alliance

Champions for Colorado School-Based Clinics

Formerly known as Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care

2022 Colorado Legislative Session Overview

The 2022 legislative sessions summarized in a few data points:

- **655** total bills in the legislative session
- Youth Healthcare Alliance supported **11** bills that became law
- Youth Healthcare Alliance monitored **22** bills that became law
- Youth Healthcare Alliance and school-based clinic staff testified **2** times
- Policy Committee met **7** times

Included in this document are bills relevant to school-based clinics and school health that passed and were signed into law during the 2022 Colorado general assembly session. Any bills that are outside of our scope or that did not pass during the session are not included in here. If you want to learn more about other legislation, you can visit the General Assembly [website](#) or read [The Colorado Sun](#) or [The Denver Post](#).

Top Priority for Youth Healthcare Alliance

As school-based clinics rely on state funding for general operating grants to support their clinics, especially for any critical non-billable services and to support uninsured access to care, Youth Healthcare Alliance's number one priority each legislative session is always to defend the current state revenue and to find opportunity to increase revenue for school-based clinics.

- \$5 million static funding secured in CDPHE's School-Based Health Center Program line item
- \$1.5 million in one-time new funding from [SB 147](#), **Behavioral Health Care Services for Children** – School-based clinics were named as one of the recipients of this specific set of commitments from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding given to Colorado. This package will go toward addressing behavioral health needs and building a stronger behavioral health system. Further information on what this means for existing grantees will be forthcoming from CDPHE.

- ARPA brought a total \$3.8 billion to Colorado as COVID-19 recovery stimulus to be spent. Some money was committed in the 2021 legislative session and the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force met over the summer/fall of 2021 to recommend priorities for 2022. Most of those recommendations (one of which was the \$1.5 million for school-based clinics) were put forth in legislation. This is the 2nd year that school-based clinics received ARPA funding.
- **[HB 1281](#), the Behavioral Health Care Continuum Gap Grant Program**, establishes a \$90 million grant program administered by the Behavioral Health Administration to be awarded to local nonprofits, community-based organizations, and local governments. The BHA will develop a behavioral health care services assessment tool to identify regional gaps and will use that to give preference to applications who addressed identified gaps using the tool. This could be an option for school-based clinics (or potential school-based clinics) that are serving in behavioral health deserts.
- **[HB 1356](#) – Small Community-Based Nonprofit Grant Program**. This bill creates a grant program in the Division of Local Government in the Department of Local Affairs to provide grants to certain small community-based nonprofit organizations that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted by COVID. The grants are intended for infrastructure and capacity building. The bill specifies that grant recipients may use grant program money for infrastructure and capacity building purposes including data technology needs, professional development for staff and board members, strategic planning and organizational development for capacity building and fundraising, communications, and existing program expansion, development, or evaluation. The bill also specifies that grant money cannot be used for capital improvements, real estate or land acquisition, payment of debt, advocacy or lobbying, organizing, endowments, or reserves. The maximum award cannot exceed \$100,000 or 30% of the organization’s operating budget.

Other Critical Bills for School-Based Clinics

Behavioral Health

- **[HB 1052](#) – Promoting Crisis Services to Students**
 - This bill would require each student identification card issued to public school students to contain the phone number, website address, and text talk number for a 24-hour telephone crisis line. If the school does not issue identification cards, the school will then display outreach materials from Colorado crisis services.
- **[HB 1278](#) – Behavioral Health Administration**
 - This bill creates the BHA in Colorado Department of Human Services to create a coordinate, cohesive, and effective behavioral health system in the state. The BHA will be required to establish a behavioral health:
 - Grievance system
 - Performance monitoring system
 - Comprehensive safety net system
- **[HB 1283](#) – Youth and Family Behavioral Health Care**
 - The bill creates in-home and residential respite care in 10-12 regions of the state for children and families, provides operational support for psychiatric residential treatment facilities for youth, and provides funds to build and staff a neuro-psych facility in Fort Logan.

- **[HB 1302](#) – Health Care Practice Transformation**
 - HCPF will distribute grants to primary care clinics for implementation of evidence-based clinical integration of behavioral health care models.

Workforce

- **[HB 1005](#) – Health Care Preceptors Tax Credit**
 - Health care preceptors in rural and frontier areas can access a tax credit up to \$1,000 for precepting eligible health professional students for tax years 2017 through 2022. This tax credit has been extended include advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, registered nurse, registered dental hygienist, licensed clinical or counseling psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed addiction counselor, among other categories and modifications.
- **[HB 1050](#) – International Medical Graduate Integrate Health Care Workforce**
 - Colorado Department of Labor and Employment will be required to establish a program to assist International Medical Graduates (IMGs) seeking to integrate into the state's health care workforce. The program will include evaluation of credentials, providing scholarships to assist in the licensure process, and a clinical readiness program to ensure IMGs can build the skills necessary to enter a medical residency program.
- **[HB 1299](#) – License Registration Fee Relief for Mental Health Professionals**
 - This bill directs ARPA funding to provide fee relief for license fees regulated by the following boards: the state board of psychologist examiners, the state board of social work examiners, the state board of marriage and family therapist examiners, the state board of licensed professional counselor examiners, the state board of unlicensed psychotherapists, and the state board of addiction counselor examiners.
- **[SB 77](#) – Interstate Licensed Professional Counselor Compact**
 - This bill enacts the Interstate Compact for professional counselors so any counselors in the states that have joined the compact can practice in-person and via telehealth in those compact states.
- **[SB 172](#) – Colorado Rural Health Care Workforce Initiative**
 - The bill requires health professional schools around Colorado to establish a rural track, with priority for students from those areas and any students receiving scholarships would be required to work for 2 years post-graduation in those areas.
- **[SB 181](#) – Behavioral Health Care Workforce**
 - The BHA would be required to create and implement a behavioral health care provider workforce plan with recruitment methods to increase and diversify the workforce, strategies in working with community colleges and other institutions to recruit residents in high health professional shortage areas, increase opportunities for unlicensed professionals, reduce administrative burden so professionals can focus on patient care, and more.

Other

- **[HB 1240](#) – Mandatory Reporters**
 - This bill creates a mandatory reporter task force to analyze best practices and recommend changes to training materials and reporting procedures for people

required to report child abuse and neglect. This task force shall analyze the effectiveness of mandatory reporting and its relationship with systemic issues, including the disproportionate impact of mandatory reporting on families of color and under-resourced communities. A final report is due to the legislature in 2025.

- The bill also changes the requirements of mandatory reporting to include: 1) timeframe from reporting abuse or neglect from immediately to 24 hours; 2) reporting on unlawful sexual behavior; 3) employers to notify and provide materials to employees regarding mandatory reporter responsibilities; 4) changes the mental state of the person who violates the mandatory report provision from willfully to knowingly.
- **[HB 1292](#) – Flexibility in Oral Health Funding**
 - This bill moves funding from the tobacco master settlement agreement to the state dental loan repayment program to also be used for oral health programs.
- **[HB 1358](#) – Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers**
 - This bill requires each public K-12 school, child care center, and family child care home to ensure that a filter is installed on every drinking water source and complies with lead testing and remediation efforts.
- **[SB 219](#) – Regulate Dental Therapists**
 - This bill puts in place the licensure requirements for dental therapists who wish to practice in Colorado, which also includes training requirements and supervision requirements.

Equity

- **[HB 1157](#) – Utilization of Demographic Data by CDPHE**
 - CDPHE would be required to collect public health data from data sources provided to them including race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. CDPHE must establish a process for the collection and use of this data. Specific programs for where the data will be collected were identified, and the School-Based Health Center Program was included.
- **[HB 1267](#) – Culturally Relevant Training Health Professionals**
 - CDPHE has been appropriated \$1 million for providing a culturally responsive training to health care professionals in Colorado.
- **[HB 1289](#) – Health Benefits for Colorado Children and Pregnant Persons**
 - This bill makes the following changes to the Medicaid/CHP+ programs: income-qualifying pregnant people and children are now eligible (and pregnant people are eligible for continuous 12-month coverage postpartum); breast pumps are a covered benefit; a special enrollment period is created to qualify pregnant people as soon as they become pregnant.

For reference only

- **[HB 1214](#) – Behavioral Health Crisis Response System** – This bill requires crisis systems programs to meet minimum standards for mental health and substance use disorder services. This will also require these programs to provide services to any individual, including youth of any age.

- [**HB 1243**](#) – **School Security & Behavioral Health Services Funding** – This bill creates a school security disbursement funding, extends the I Matter program for youth mental health services, and appropriates \$2 million to the school health professionals grant program.
- [**HB 1252**](#) – **Public School Contract Terms and Conditions** – This bill prohibits the following terms in contracts that would require the public school to:
 - indemnify or hold harmless another person;
 - agree to binding arbitration or any other binding extra-judicial dispute resolution process;
 - agree to limit liability of another person for bodily injury, death, or damage to property caused by the negligence or misconduct of the person or the person’s employee;
 - waive governmental immunity;
 - waive, alter, or limit the application of student data restrictions and protections of personally identifiable student data; or
 - otherwise agree to terms that conflict with Colorado law or agency rules.
- [**HB 1376**](#) – **Supportive Learning Environments for K-12 Students**
 - This bill requires the Colorado Department of Education to compile data and create reports on school discipline tactics in order to share publicly the school climate of specific schools. The bill also puts in place restrictions around the use of restraints and requires the department to develop a policy for hiring, training, and evaluating school resource officers.
- [**SB 148**](#) – **Colorado Land-Based Tribe Behavioral Health Services Grant Program**
 - This bill gives \$5 million for grants to be given to Colorado land-based tribes to support capital expenditures for the renovation or building of a behavioral health facility to provide behavioral and mental health services.