

# OneFAB

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Child and Adolescent Health Centers

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## Background

The Child and Adolescent Health Centers (CAHC) Program, housed within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is a jointly funded initiative by the Department of Education and the DHHS. The program consists of three service delivery models: clinical health centers, school wellness programs, and behavioral health services models. Currently there are 86 clinical sites, 31 school wellness programs, and five behavioral health services models.<sup>1</sup> The school wellness program model uses a registered nurse and a mental health counselor to provide limited clinical services, referrals, health education, and immunizations on school grounds, while the behavioral health services model places a full-time licensed mental health counselor at the participating school.

## Funding Mechanism

Funding for the CAHC Program originates in the School Aid budget, specifically Sections 31a(7) and 31n(5). Section 31a(7) is a longstanding section that appropriates funds to “support primary health care services provided to children and adolescents up to age 21”.<sup>2</sup> Historically this funding has been passed through from the School Aid budget to the DHHS budget, in which it appears as a Local fund source. A portion of the funding is allocated directly to child and adolescent health centers, a portion is allocated for administration of the CAHC Program, and a portion is allocated to the Medicaid health plans to draw down Federal matching dollars for eligible Medicaid services provided at the centers. The portion allocated to the Child and Adolescent Health Center line item supports general school-based child and adolescent health center care.

Section 31n(5) first was included in the School Aid budget in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20, and it directs that funding be “distributed to the network of child and adolescent health centers to place a licensed master’s level behavioral health provider in schools that do not currently have services available to general education students”.<sup>3</sup> As with Section 31a(7), this funding flows from the School Aid budget and appears as a Local fund source in the DHHS budget. The entirety of this funding is allocated to the Child and Adolescent Health Centers line item.

For both Sections 31a(7) and 31n(5), the appropriation in the DHHS budget is not a separate amount of money from that appropriated in the School Aid budget, rather the appropriation is a technical adjustment that mirrors the amount appropriated in the School Aid budget.

## Funding History

Over the past five years, funding for child and adolescent health centers has increased steadily, with a relatively large increase proposed in Governor Whitmer’s FY 2022-23 School Aid Executive Budget Recommendation. This increase is reflected in the FY 2022-23 proposed DHHS Executive Budget Recommendation. [Table 1](#) shows the total enacted appropriations within the School Aid Budget since FY 2018-19.

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<sup>1</sup> "Child and Adolescent Health Center Program Fiscal Year 2021 Sites (February Update):" Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, February 2021. Retrieved at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov).

<sup>2</sup> Public Act 48 of 2021, Sec. 31a(7).

<sup>3</sup> Public Act 48 of 2021, Sec. 31n(5).

<b>Table 1: School Aid Funding (Enacted)</b>			
	<b>31a(7)</b>	<b>31n(5)</b>	<b>Total</b>
FY 2022-23*	\$19,000,000	14,300,000	<b>\$33,300,000</b>
FY 2021-22	\$8,000,000	14,300,000	<b>\$22,300,000</b>
FY 2020-21	\$8,000,000	9,300,000	<b>\$17,300,000</b>
FY 2019-20	\$8,000,000	6,500,000	<b>\$14,500,000</b>
FY 2018-19	\$6,057,300	0	<b>\$6,057,300</b>

\*These amounts reflect Governor Whitmer's FY 2022-23 Executive Recommendation

As discussed in the previous section, the School Aid appropriations appear as a local fund source in the DHHS budget. After the creation of Section 31n(5) in the FY 2019-20 School Aid budget and resulting increase in CAHC funding, the enacted DHHS FY 2020-21 budget included a dedicated Child and Adolescent Health Centers line item. [Table 2](#) shows the allocation of Local funds received through the School Aid Budget broken down by line item within the DHHS budget.

<b>Table 2: Department of Health and Human Services Funding (Enacted)</b>										
	<b>FY 2018-19</b>		<b>FY 2019-20</b>		<b>FY 2020-21</b>		<b>FY 2021-22</b>		<b>FY 2022-23*</b>	
	<b>31a(7)</b>	<b>31n(5)</b>	<b>31a(7)</b>	<b>31n(5)</b>	<b>31a(7)</b>	<b>31n(5)</b>	<b>31a(7)</b>	<b>31n(5)</b>	<b>31a(7)</b>	<b>31n(5)</b>
Child and Adolescent Health Centers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,942,700	\$6,500,000	\$1,942,700	\$9,300,000	\$12,942,700	\$14,300,000
Family, Maternal, and Child Health Admin	75,000	0	75,000	0	75,000	0	75,000	0	75,000	0
Health Plan Services	5,982,300	0	5,982,300	0	5,982,300	0	5,982,300	0	5,982,300	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$6,057,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,057,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$9,300,000</b>	<b>\$19,000,000</b>	<b>\$14,300,000</b>

\*These amounts reflect Governor Whitmer's FY 2022-23 Executive Recommendation

When combined with [Table 1](#), the information in [Table 2](#) appears to show that there is approximately a one-year lag between when the funding for CAHCs is appropriated in the School Aid budget and when it is reflected in the DHHS budget. However, in FY 2020-21, Public Act 87 of 2021 included a \$4.9 million supplemental increase for the Child and Adolescent Health Centers line. Similarly, in FY 2021-22, PA 133 of 2021 included a \$5.0 million supplemental increase for the Child and Adolescent Health Centers line.

## Conclusion

Child and adolescent health centers help connect school-aged children with basic physical and behavioral health services and recently have seen large growth in the support they receive from the State. As this program continues to expand, it is important to know the funding history as well as how the program is funded.