

State

SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Request

The Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMS) urges the Legislature to include \$4 million over two years for the renewal of the School Based Health Centers (SBHC) program. Additional funding is needed to encourage all of New York's medical schools to participate in the program.

Background

The Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) renewal of 2001 provided funds to medical schools to initiate the SBHC program. Nine of the 14 medical schools currently participate in the program that encourages medical students, under physician supervision, to provide primary care services to elementary and secondary school students. Each medical school received a total of approximately \$450,000 for three years. The program has been extremely successful and of mutual benefit to the medical students as well as to the public school students they serve.

The nine medical which currently participate in the program include:

- The Albany Medical College
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University
- University at Buffalo State University of New York School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (2 programs)
- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- New York Medical College
- New York University School of Medicine
- University of Rochester School of Medicine
- State University of New York Upstate Medical University

SBHC funding supports:

- Clinical supervisors in ambulatory care settings and school based health centers.
- Clinical and public health training for students.
- Curriculum adaptations in non-traditional training sites.
- Health promotion and disease prevention education for children.
- Activities to enhance cultural sensitivity and competencies among trainees.
- Health care services in underserved urban and rural communities.

The SBHC program trains:

- Medical Students – first through fourth year
- Residents – pediatrics, family practice
- Fellows – developmental-behavioral pediatrics, child psychiatry

- Other Disciplines – dental students and residents, social work students, mutation students

Trainee Experience include:

- Providing care in non-traditional setting (schools, refuge and homeless clinics).
- Experiencing the needs of undeserved urban and rural communities.
- Working with interdisciplinary teams.

Accomplishments

Medical students and residents were provided the following opportunities to:

- Experience the opportunities and challenges of interest in providing care in non-traditional settings.
- Gain first hand understanding and experience of the health care needs of undeserved urban and rural communities, deepening learners' insight into the interplay between culture and ethnicity.
- Function as a member of an interdisciplinary team, frequently experiencing for the first time, the impact and importance of partnerships with other health care providers.
- Understand the public health role of School Based Health
- Become excited about and interested in community health.