

2009 MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT REQUIREMENTS

A. CLIENT ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

With respect to Public Law 102-321 (Section 1911(b) and 1912(b)), the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) established final definitions for the target populations that would be serviced by funds from the Mental Health Block Grant. These definitions will apply directly to those county programs using these funds. Funds may be used only to provide services to mental health consumers who meet the following definitions. The Department is responsible to assure the CMHS that these funds are appropriately used.

Definitions of Children & Adolescents with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED)

Pursuant to Section 1911(c) of the Public Health Service Act "children with a serious emotional disturbance" are (1) from birth up to age 18 and (2) who currently have, or at any time during the last year, had a diagnosable mental, behavioral or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within DSM-III-R. **Federal Register** Volume 58 No. 96 published Thursday May 20, 1993 pages 29422 through 29425.

Definition of Adults with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

Pursuant to Section 1912(c) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by Public Law 102-321, "adults with a serious mental illness" are persons: (1) age 18 and over and (2) who currently have, or at any time during the past year, had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within DSM-IV or their ICD-9-CM equivalent (and subsequent revisions) with the exception of DSM-IV "V" codes, substance use disorders, and developmental disorders which are excluded, unless they co-occur with another diagnosable serious mental illness, and (3) that has resulted in functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. **Federal Register** Volume 58 No. 96 published Thursday May 20, 1993, pages 29422 through 29425.

B. ALLOWABLE SERVICES

The purpose of these funds is to expand the county-operated or contracted system of community-based services for adults with SMI and children with SED. These funds must be used to initiate new programs, or significantly strengthen existing programs for these population categories (refer to PL 102-321, Section 1916(a)).

Program Priority Areas

The 2009 Wisconsin State Mental Health Plan identifies and describes a number of programs that help meet the needs of both adults with SMI and children with SED. The Community Aids Formula Allocation funds are to be used to expand a number of these services; specifically, the funds allocated to county programs may be used for the following program priority areas:

1. Community Support Programs
2. Supported Housing
3. Jail Diversion
4. Crisis Intervention
5. Family and Consumer Peer Support and Self-Help
6. Services for Children and Adolescents with SED
7. Programs for persons with Mental illness and substance abuse problems
8. Community mental health data-set development
9. Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)

The following section defines allowable uses of the funds for each of the eight priority areas and presents information on how funds may be used. Use of the funds in these priority areas should be

reported through the HSRS as a service. Each of the descriptions of the program priority areas below is followed by its associated Standard Program Category (SPC) code which counties should use when recording data in the HSRS.

1. **Community Support Program (CSP)**

Funds may be used only by certified CSP for the following activities:

- a. Hire additional staff to serve people on waiting lists
- b. Address clients' vocational needs by hiring vocational counselors
- c. Address clients' substance abuse issues by hiring additional staff with that expertise
- d. Provide parenting skills training and other specialized services to CSP clients who are parents
- e. Assist CSP eligible adolescents who are in transition from children's services to adult services
- f. Send staff to training or hire trainers to come in and work with staff.
- g. Use money for client emergencies, such as medications, vocational incentive money, etc.
- h. Purchase necessary equipment to enhance programming.

The funds should be reported in the following standard program code, which is

509 Community Support

2. **Supported Housing**

Funds are to be used to increase the mental health agency's staff resources and knowledge to help people with serious mental illness choose, obtain, and keep normal housing. **Note:** These funds may be used to assist mental health consumers who are homeless and in need of services in the county. The funds may also be used to increase the mental health agency's capacity to identify the housing needs of clients, develop overall housing plans, educate landlords, public housing authorities, housing planners, and developers about the housing needs of the clients. The housing on which the efforts are targeted needs to be based on the choice of consumers, have a regular landlord/tenant lease, and be integrated with housing/apartments for people without disabilities. Clients must also have the opportunity to choose their roommates/housemates. These funds may not be used for community-based residential services or purchase of land or buildings or payment of a mortgage.

Funds may be used to:

- a. Conduct or hire consultants to conduct consumer housing preference studies.
- b. Hire a housing coordinator to address clients' housing needs with other housing providers, including landlords.
- c. Start-up funds to pay for security deposits to assist people to move into their housing from institutions, group homes, etc.
- d. Subsidize the client's rent while he/she is on the Section B waiting list.
- e. Send staff to training regarding housing issues or hire trainers to teach staff to understand housing and support service issues.
- f. Hire housing staff who provide day-to-day support to clients to choose, acquire, and keep housing of their choice.

The funds should be reported in the following standard program code, which is:

106 Housing/Energy Assistance

3. **Jail Diversion**

Expand or develop capacity at mental health agencies to identify, build relationships with, and divert and support people with serious mental illness or children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbance from jails, when appropriate. Funds may be used to:

- a. Hire jail liaison staff.
- b. Purchase training and consultation to develop jail linkages.
- c. Purchase necessary equipment to enhance programming.

These funds should be reported in the following standard program codes, which are:

507 Counseling/Therapeutic Resources
509 Community Support

4. Crisis Intervention

Develop or expand the ability of mental health staff to provide mobile crisis intervention and resolution services 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Innovative efforts to develop alternatives to hospitalization are also eligible for these funds. Funds may be used to:

- a. Hire staff to provide mobile crisis intervention and resolution services.
- b. Purchase training or send staff to training regarding crisis intervention and resolution techniques.
- c. Purchase necessary equipment to enhance programming.
- d. Develop community-based crisis resolution programs like community crisis beds.
- e. Pay for respite services.
- f. Fund a consumer-operated support telephone line.
- g. Fund consumer-operated crisis alternative.

These funds should be reported in the following standard program code, which is:

501 Crisis Intervention

5. Family and Consumer Support and Self-Help

Organizations that focus on providing self-help or peer support to families of adults with severe mental illness or children/adolescents with severe emotional disturbance and clients/consumers/ex-patients will:

- a. Pay rent and pay operating expenses for an office and a meeting place.
- b. Pay expenses related to publishing a newsletter.
- c. Hire a staff person, preferably a consumer or family member, to set up meetings and perform administrative duties.
- d. Develop peer support and self-help programs, including clubhouses, drop-in centers, supported telephone lines, crisis alternatives, housing referral and support, employment referral, etc.
- e. Reimburse members' mileage to help them attend meetings, pay for baby sitters, etc.
- f. Pay expenses to assist members to attend meetings and conferences, including conferences out of state.
- g. Hire consumers or family members to provide assistance to other clients and family members in dealing with the mental health system during a crisis, when there is a complaint, etc.

These funds should be reported in the following standard program code, which is:

408 Community Prevention, Organization, and Awareness

6. Services For Children and Adolescents with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED)

Develop, expand the mental health agency's capacity to provide comprehensive and coordinated services for children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbance. Funds may be used to:

- a. Hire a service coordinator with the qualifications specified under s. 46.56, Wis Stats., an individual who is qualified by specialized training and clinical experience with children with SED and their families.

- b. Create a pool of funds for providing flexible services to maintain children and youth in their homes or the community.
- c. Hire a children's specialist (masters degree with 3,000 hours) for the 51 system who can team with a second worker to provide in-home therapy services.
- d. Identify gaps in the service array and fund missing services.
- e. Hire a child mental health therapist to assist CSP-eligible adolescents in transition from children's services to adult services

These funds should be reported using the following standard program codes, which are:

103	Respite Care
604	Case Management
501	Crisis Intervention
507	Counseling/Therapeutic Resources
704	Day Treatment-Medical

7. Programs For People With Serious Mental Illness Who Have Substance Abuse Problems

The purpose of this priority area is to develop innovative strategies and approaches for providing integrated, community services for people with serious and persistent mental illness who have substance abuse problems. The proposed system for these individuals must incorporate and integrate mental health and substance abuse treatment. Funds may be used to:

- a. Add or provide specialized training/certification to staff of the agency's CSP.
- b. Develop a case management program.
- c. Develop a new community treatment and support program for persons with dual diagnosis.

The funds should be reported in the following standard program codes, which are:

507	Counseling/Therapeutic Resources
508	Community Support

8. Community Mental Health Data-Set Development

The purpose of this program initiative is to promote the development of client, program, and outcome mental health data to enhance knowledge about those being served, and to provide for the future planning of services and resources for those with serious mental illness. Funds may be used to:

- a. Attend regional or statewide training on goals of mental health data-set development.
- b. Develop innovative, county-based pilot projects for mental health data collection.
- c. Purchase capital equipment, specifically computer equipment and software, in order to utilize a state-developed mental health data set.
- d. Hire or contract for computer personnel in order to integrate a state-developed data set with a local system and transfer data gained to state-based system.

No standard program categories are necessary to record for this program priority area.

9. Comprehensive Community Services

Funds may be used only by certified CCS counties for the following activities:

- a. Hire additional staff to serve people on waiting lists
- b. Address clients' vocational needs by hiring vocational counselors
- c. Address clients' substance abuse issues by hiring additional staff with that expertise
- d. Provide parenting skills training and other specialized services to CSP clients who are parents
- e. Assist eligible adolescents who are in transition from children's services to adult services

- f. Send staff to training or hire trainers to come in and work with staff.
- g. Use money for client emergencies, such as medications, vocational incentive money, etc.
- h. Purchase necessary equipment to enhance programming.

The funds should be reported in the following standard program code, which is

510 Comprehensive Community Services

C. RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDS

The Allowable Costs Manual states that capital equipment requests that exceed \$5,000 would require a waiver from the Division. All items that exceed \$5,000 should be justified in the appropriate section of the County Reporting Form. This section requires that a request for capital equipment be tied to the goals of the proposal.

Agencies may not expend the Community Mental Health Services block grant to:

1. Provide inpatient services or services in a CBRF.
2. Make cash payments to intended recipients of health services.
3. Purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve a building or other facility, pay down payments or mortgage for property, or purchase major medical equipment.
4. Satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-federal funds as a condition for the receipt of federal funds, i.e., Medical Assistance match for CSP or case management services.
5. Provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or non-profit private entity
6. Supplant existing funding for services for adults with serious mental illness or children with SED