



Date: May 17, 2016

DMHSAS Numbered Memo 2016-05

To: Area Administrators/Human Service Area Coordinators
Bureau Directors/Section Chiefs
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Service Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
County Mental Health Coordinators
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Patrick Cork, Administrator
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

2016 Systems Improvement Awards

Document Summary

This memo provides notice of a statewide total of \$300,000 in federal Community Mental Health Block Grant funding from Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSAS), available to eligible counties for one-time System Improvement Incentive Awards. These awards will be made to county or tribal regions that successfully developed and implemented Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) in a regional model during the period from July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015, and continue to meet criteria for regional programs per the Intent to Provide CCS in Regional Service System applications outlined in the [DMHSAS Numbered Action Memo 2013-06](#). Eligible counties or tribes must **submit a letter by May 31, 2016, certifying that the CCS Program/Region continues to operate and meet all regional CCS Program eligibility requirements.**

Background

Wisconsin Stat. § 51.42 assigns county government with the responsibility to provide for the program needs of persons with mental health and substance use disorders. This statute also indicates counties are to continuously plan, develop, and evaluate programs for these target groups. DHS launched the statewide expansion of the CCS Program in support of the Governor's mental health initiatives adopted in 2013 Wisconsin Act 20. The goal was to assist counties and tribes to increase access to services for people experiencing mental health and substance use concerns through a statewide expansion of CCS. Counties and tribes were encouraged to provide CCS services through regional models that allowed programs to receive both the federal and non-federal share of allowable Medicaid costs reimbursed by DHS.

DMHSAS established a process for counties and tribes to apply to be certified as a Regional CCS Program in the [DMHSAS Numbered Action Memo 2013-06, Intent to Provide CCS in Regional](#)

Services Systems. Counties and tribes that provided documentation of their intent to meet programmatic criteria applied for regional certification through the Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) and Medicaid certification through the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability (DHCAA). Since July 2014, counties and tribes have been working diligently to develop regional models that have expanded CCS services. To date, Wisconsin has 23 certified CCS regions, comprising of 62 counties and one tribe.

Within the 62 counties and one tribe currently participating in certified CCS regions, 22 counties and one tribe became newly certified CCS programs during the July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015, expansion period. DMHSAS recognizes the work of the county and tribal leadership and staff in these counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Barron, Clark, Crawford, Dane, Door, Dunn, Iron, Lac du Flambeau, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Ozaukee, Pierce, Polk, Racine, Rock, Rusk, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau, and Vernon.

Action Summary

This memo outlines the availability of 2016 Systems Improvement Awards and the specific criteria, process, and timeline to apply for this funding. This memo details the opportunity for the counties or tribe that developed new CCS programs July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015, to apply for a one-time grant under the 2016 Systems Improvement Awards. This opportunity applies only to those counties/tribes that developed new programs during this initial expansion rollout period and who have continued to meet the criteria for regional designation. Therefore, counties with CCS programs certified prior to 2014 or after December 31, 2015, are not eligible for the 2016 Systems Improvement Awards. In addition, counties that were awarded Mental Health and Substance Abuse Regional Collaborative Pilot grants are not eligible to apply for this grant.

County/Tribal Eligibility Requirements:

DHS has established the following criteria that will be used to determine the recipients of the 2016 Systems Improvement Awards:

The county or tribe:

- Operates a CCS Program certified by DQA and DHCAA as a Medicaid provider July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015.
- CCS Program/Region is serving **all** eligible and appropriate consumers across the lifespan and with a diagnosis of:
 - Mental health only
 - Mental health and substance abuse co-occurring,
 - Substance abuse only
- CCS Program/Region must be submitting initial and annual functional screens.
- CCS Program/Region must have completed the Recovery Oriented Systems Indicators (ROSI) and Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program (MHSIP) consumer satisfaction surveys, if operating for one year or more.
- CCS Program/Region must have provided quarterly admission and service data to the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery.

Eligible Applicants

Based on the stated criteria, DMHSAS has identified the following 19 county agencies as eligible to apply for this award: Ashland, Bayfield, Barron, Clark, Crawford, Dane, Dunn, Iron, Lafayette, Ozaukee, Pierce, Polk, Racine, Rock, Rusk, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau, and Vernon.

Application Process

If your county or tribal agency was not included in this list, and you believe that you have met the requirements, the agency director should submit a letter to DMHSAS **by May 31, 2016**, that outlines how the program has met each of the stated criteria.

For those counties outlined above as an eligible applicant, submit a letter **by May 31, 2016**, certifying that the CCS Program/Region continues to meet all eligibility requirements noted above.

Submit your agency letter of verification to:

Kenya Bright
Integrated Services Section Chief
Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
1 W. Wilson St., Room 951
Madison, WI 53703-7851
Kenya.Bright@wisconsin.gov

Once eligibility has been confirmed, the county/tribe will receive a one-time 2016 Systems Improvement Award as an addendum to their state county contract in the Community Mental Health Block Grant allocation for calendar year 2016. These grant funds may be used for the following:

- The funding must be used for services for adults with serious mental illness or youth with serious emotional disturbance or for developing or improving services or supports that serve this population.
- All counties or tribes receiving these funds must follow state allowable costs as well as the federal or state block grant requirements.

The following are prohibited expenditures under these grant funds:

- Cannot be used for inpatient services.
- Cannot be used to make cash payments to intended recipients of health services.
- Cannot be used to purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve any building or other facility, or purchase major medical equipment.
- Cannot be used to satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-federal funds as a condition of the receipt of federal funds.
- Cannot be used to provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or nonprofit entity.

For additional information and questions regarding this memo:

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Area Administrators

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Kenya Bright
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Department of Health Services
1 W. Wilson St., Room 951
Madison, WI 53703-7851
Telephone: 608-267-9392
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