



Date: March 30, 2022

DCTS Action Memo 2022-05

To: Subscribers of the DCTS Action Memo Email Distribution List

From: Rose Kleman, Administrator

Request for Applications: Behavioral Health Telehealth Partnerships

Summary

This memo outlines a funding opportunity for behavioral health providers to expand access to telehealth services through community partnerships. The deadline to apply for a grant of up to \$100,000 is 3 p.m. May 6, 2022.

Background

There are three intended outcomes of this funding:

- Expand opportunities for people to access behavioral health telehealth services now and into the future.
- Reduce the barriers that exist for many people to use telehealth for behavioral health services.
- Reduce disparities in behavioral health care.

Telehealth has served as a cornerstone of outpatient health care from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has helped to maintain continuity of care and the patient-provider relationship.

Telehealth also can fill gaps in access to behavioral health care caused by a shortage of mental health providers but access to the technology needed for telehealth is not universal across all regions and populations in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Medicaid updated program policy in March 2020 to allow Medicaid members to receive telehealth services from any “originating site” (where the member is), including a home, pharmacy, homeless shelter, assisted living provider, and school. Previously, only hospitals, nursing homes, and physician offices were designated as originating sites for care.

Successful applicants for the funding available under this request for applications will be community-based behavioral health care providers who provide or plan to provide services in areas of Wisconsin that lack behavioral health care. Successful applicants will partner with non-traditional sites of care to establish hubs for behavioral health telehealth services. The non-traditional sites of care may include schools, pharmacies, long-term care facilities, public libraries, community centers, homeless shelters, food pantries, or other publicly accessible locations in underserved areas. The partnerships established between providers and non-traditional sites must result in the non-traditional sites designating and developing the space and technology to provide a private, trauma sensitive area that is publicly accessible for people to participate in behavioral health telehealth services. Grant funds may be used to purchase and support the technology for both the provider and non-traditional site, including hardware,

software, and internet access. Grant funds also may be used to cover the costs of limited work to remodel a space to establish a behavioral health telehealth hub.

Eligibility for funding

- Applicants must be located in Wisconsin.
- Applicants may be a Wisconsin county agency, an agency from a federally recognized tribe with members in Wisconsin, a federally qualified health center, a nonprofit organization, or a for-profit organization.

Preference will be given to applicants who serve people uninsured or enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare.

Award and contract information

- Approximately 25 to 50 grants of up to \$100,000 each may be awarded. Applications should indicate how much funding is being requested. The contract period is expected to be one year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023).
- Applicants should plan and budget for one year of funding. Carryover of funds into a second year may be possible based on the availability of funds and grantee performance.
- Awards will be stand-alone contracts. They will not be part of any existing contract.
- There is no match requirement for this contract.

DHS reserves the right to reject any and all applications. DHS may negotiate the terms of the contract, including the award amount, with the selected applicants prior to entering into a contract. If contract negotiations cannot be concluded successfully with a recommended applicant, DHS may terminate contract negotiations with that applicant.

Successful applicants will be required to submit mid-contract and end-of-contract performance reports, with information on the people served with this funding and a summary of expenditures.

Application design

All narrative content created for the application must be typed in single-space format using 12-point Times New Roman font. All pages should have one-inch margins. Applications will be reviewed and scored by an evaluation committee. Applicants may not contact members of the evaluation team without the contract administrator's written approval.

- **Cover page (Pass/Fail):** One page that lists the name of the applicant applying for funding with relevant contact information, the name(s) and contact information for the non-traditional partner site(s), and the name(s) and contact information for any subcontractor(s), if applicable.
- **Abstract (10 points):** No more than one page that includes a description of the project details with specific focus on the proposed needs to be funded and a description of the planned partnership with the non-traditional community site(s).
- **Project narrative (70 points):** No more than three pages organized according to the following headings:
 - **Organization purpose, experience, and capacity:**
 - State the organization's purpose or mission.
 - Describe the organization's experience in providing behavioral health services through telehealth to the identified population.
 - Describe the certifications or licenses the organization holds.

- Describe the professional licenses held by the staff who will be involved with this project.
- Describe the organization's capacity to fully execute this contract.
- **Description of project:**
 - Explain how this funding will address the three intended outcomes listed on page 1 of this memo.
 - Explain the non-traditional site(s) and the applicant's relationship with this site(s).
 - Explain the services that will be offered at the non-traditional site(s).
 - Explain the tech support to be provided at the non-traditional site(s).
 - List the estimated costs for each piece of infrastructure to fully execute this contract.
 - Explain how relevant HIPAA requirements will be followed in providing care at the non-traditional site(s).
 - Explain steps that will be taken to ensure the space at the non-traditional site(s) is trauma sensitive.
- **Evaluation:** Describe the evaluation strategies that will be used to determine if the three intended outcomes of the project are being met.
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion:** Describe how diversity, equity, and inclusion is being considered in each element of the target population, statement of need, program design, and evaluation.
- **Contract application (10 points):** Complete the [DCTS Annual Grant/Contract Application: Condensed, F-21276C](#).
- **Budget worksheet (10 points):** Complete the [DCTS Summary Line Item Budget: Condensed, F-01601C](#).

NOTE: Only one F-2127C and F-01601C is needed from applicants seeking funds for more than one non-traditional partner site. The project narrative must clearly outline the plan and budget for each non-traditional partner site. Awards may be based on individual partner sites rather than an applicant's total proposal if multiple sites are proposed.

Application process

Completed applications must be emailed to [Emily Jaime](#) by 3p.m. May 6, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted. An email confirming receipt of the application will be sent within three business days. Applicants who do not receive an email confirmation within three business days should contact Emily Jaime at 608-354-7225.

Completed applications will include the following email attachments:

- The cover page, abstract, and project narrative as a PDF or a Microsoft Word document.
- Completed and unprotected [DCTS Annual Grant/Contract Application: Condensed, F-21276C](#).
- Completed and unprotected [DCTS Summary Line Item Budget: Condensed, F-01601C](#).

All questions about this request for applications must be submitted by email to [Emily Jaime](#) on or before April 29, 2022. Questions submitted by phone will not be answered.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT

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