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DCTS Action Memo 2024-14

To: Subscribers of the DCTS Action Memo Email Distribution List

From: Gynger Steele, Administrator

## Request for Applications: Crisis Program Enhancement Grants

### Summary

This memo outlines a funding opportunity for crisis programs. This funding may be used by counties or regions comprised of multiple counties to establish or enhance crisis programs to serve people experiencing behavioral health emergencies in rural areas. This funding may also be used to establish or enhance collaborations with law enforcement to support better responses to behavioral health emergencies. The deadline to apply for this funding is 11:59 p.m. January 17, 2025.

### Background

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is committed to increasing the availability and accessibility of crisis services in rural areas of the state. Additionally, DHS encourages close collaboration and coordination between county and law enforcement agencies during crisis response.

State law ([Wis. Stat. § 46.536](#)) requires DHS to award crisis program enhancement grants in the total amount of \$250,000 in each state fiscal biennium (two-year state budget cycle). Funding is limited to \$100,000 per grantee.

Crisis programs reduce the number of inappropriate or unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations. Research shows diversion from inpatient admission reduces trauma to people experiencing a crisis and their families. Community-based services enhance natural supports, minimize complex multisystem involvement, and conserve direct and indirect costs associated with an involuntary psychiatric hospitalization.

Emergency mental health service programs under [Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34, subch. III](#), also known as crisis intervention programs, require counties to obtain certification through the Division of Quality Assurance to receive payment through Wisconsin Medicaid and other insurers under Wis. Admin. Code § Ins 3.37 (3)(g).

Many counties have become certified since the publication of Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34 with Subchapter III. Some counties provide crisis intervention services internally with county staff; others contract for these services. Programs certified under Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34, subch. III must provide 24-hour/7-day per week telephone services, 8-hour/5-day-per-week walk-in services, 8-hour/7-day-per-week mobile services, and optional stabilization services.

Grant funds awarded through this request for applications may be used to establish or enhance Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34, subch. III programs or establish or enhance crisis services that are not yet DHS-certified programs serving rural areas of the state.

Many behavioral health crisis events include on-site response from law enforcement. Grant funds awarded through this request for applications may be used by counties to establish or enhance collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

Collaborative partnerships with first responders, such as law enforcement agencies or emergency medical services, ensure the most appropriate response is provided to an individual experiencing a crisis. Enhanced partnerships with first responders allow for proper debriefing between agencies, increased understanding of crisis experiences for county personnel and law enforcement personnel, and the co-development of protocols to reduce the use of law enforcement during future crisis events, when safe to do so.

All applications for this grant funding should reflect current best practices in crisis intervention. Review the policy documents, reports, research papers, and toolkits available on the [Crisis Services: Information for Providers page on the DHS website](#) for strategies to consider when designing a project.

Grant recipients must match at least 25 percent of the grant amount awarded. The match requirement can be met through cash, in-kind services, or a combination of cash and in-kind services. The match funds must be available at the start of the contract period.

The contract period for the funds through this request for applications is February 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Grantees must demonstrate how the activities supported by this funding will continue beyond the contract period.

### **Eligibility for funding**

Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34, subch. III certified programs and non-certified county programs providing a crisis response for a rural county or counties are eligible to apply for this grant funding.

Priority consideration will be given to projects that establish or enhance crisis intervention programs certified under Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 34, subch. III projects that serve counties not presently served by a DHS-certified crisis intervention program, projects that serve multiple counties, and projects covering counties that do not currently have collaborative crisis response programs with law enforcement.

### **Award and contract terms**

The total amount of funds available is \$250,000.

The number of grants awarded will depend on how many applications DHS deems suitable for funding during the evaluation period and the amount of funding requested across these applications.

Funding is limited to \$100,000 per grantee.

Grant recipients must match at least 25 percent of the grant amount awarded. The match requirement can be met through cash, in-kind services, or a combination of cash and in-kind services. The match funds must be available at the start of the contract period.

DHS reserves the right to reject any and all applications.

Contracts awarded to selected applicants will be effective from February 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. All funds must be spent during the contract period. There will be no carryover funding as part of this grant opportunity.

Selected applicants using subcontractors are responsible for ensuring the subcontractors abide by all conditions of this request for applications and resulting contract.

DHS may negotiate the terms of the contract, including the award amount, with the selected applicants prior to signing a contract. If contract negotiations cannot be concluded successfully with the recommended applicant, DHS may terminate contract negotiations.

DHS reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants separate cost reimbursement for additional work related to other state or federal initiatives.

If additional state or federal funds become available, DHS may use the results of this request for applications for additional awards or to provide additional years of funding for funded projects.

## **Application design**

Applications for this funding must include information on the primary contact for the application, information on staff who will work on the proposed project, responses to the six narrative section items, a copy of the applicant's IRS Form W-9, and a completed [DCTS Budget Template, F-01601C](#).

The contact and staff information section of the application is limited to two typed pages. Pages over this limit will not be reviewed.

The narrative section of the application is limited to four typed pages. Pages over this limit will not be reviewed. In this narrative, applicants must:

- Illustrate how the proposed changes to their community's crisis system will improve the crisis services and/or crisis response serving rural areas.
- Describe program aspects to be established or enhanced through the proposed project and the plan for sustainability after the conclusion of grant funding.
- Identify basic parameters of the crisis system that will be created or enhanced with respect to mobile outreach services, community-based crisis services that provide diversion from inpatient settings, and collaborative services between law enforcement and crisis programming.
- Describe best practices that will be used in establishing or enhancing the connection of rural communities to crisis services.
- Explain the goals and related objectives for the proposed project. Goals and objectives should reflect what is hoped to be achieved within the project.
- Describe plans to meet the requirements of contributing 25 percent of the grant award in matching funds or in-kind services to this project.

The budget section of the application must use the [DCTS Budget Template, F-01601C](#).

Information on current or previous collaborations related to crisis services with contractors for the proposed project, counties included in the proposed project, and law enforcement agencies included in the proposed project may be included in the application. This optional information is limited to one typed page.

### **Application submission**

To apply for this funding, send an email with the following attachments to the [Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery](#) by 11:59 p.m. January 17, 2025.

- A PDF or Microsoft Word document with the contact and staff information for the proposed project.
- A PDF or Microsoft Word document with responses to the six items outlined in the narrative section in the application design part of this memo.
- (OPTIONAL) A PDF or Microsoft Word document with information on previous or current crisis services collaborations related to the proposed project.
- A copy of the applicant agency's IRS Form W-9.
- A completed [DCTS Budget Template, F-01601C](#), in Microsoft Excel format unprotected.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application within three business days. If you do not receive an email confirmation within three business days, contact the [Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery](#).

If you have a question or concern about this memo, email the [Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. January 2, 2025. Answers to the questions submitted will be posted on the [DHS website](#). Questions submitted by phone will not be answered.