

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health Services
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Date: May 14, 2012
DMHSAS Numbered Memo 2012 - 02 **Action**

REVISED

RE: County/Tribal Certified Peer Specialists Development

To: DMHSAS Listserv

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

From: Linda Harris, Administrator
Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Subject: County/Tribal Certified Peer Specialists Development

Document Summary

The Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) is offering grant funds to counties and tribes to increase certified peer specialist employment opportunities. One time funds are available for five (5) grants for \$22,457 each. All grant funds must be spent before September 30, 2012. The funding will be used to increase the number of certified adult peer specialists working in mental health programming. The funding can be used as start-up revenue to assist counties and tribes to develop service infrastructure to support the work of certified peer specialists.

This memo describes the application process for these funds and the Division's expectations for their use. These funds are federal Mental Health Block Grant monies, and as such, cannot be used as the non-federal share of Medicaid funding.

Background

The State of Wisconsin has a strong history of consumer and family involvement and meaningful participation in recovery-oriented supports and services. DMHSAS' Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR), as part of its mission to support consumer and families in the mental health system, prioritizes and actively works to engage consumer involvement on state and local levels. This allows Wisconsin to implement a strategy to build and model a collaborative recovery oriented system of care for our citizens.

Since December 2006, BPTR has been working to implement a Wisconsin Peer Specialist Certification for mental health with the goal of developing a career ladder for individuals living with mental illness to become employed. Currently, there are four DMHSAS approved peer specialist trainings that encompass the Wisconsin Peer Specialist competencies. Once an individual with lived experience completes training they are eligible to take the Wisconsin Adult Peer Specialist Certification Exam. Currently, there are 200 certified peer specialists located throughout the state. BPTR continues to contract for the provision of three certification exams each year and expects the number of peer specialists to grow. In addition, BPTR is aware there is a need to provide assistance to increase the capacity for employment of certified peer specialists and has provided education and technical assistance to agencies regarding their use.

In Wisconsin, public mental health treatment services are provided through counties and tribal nations. Services such as Community Support Program, Comprehensive Community Services, Community Recovery Services, and Crisis Intervention Services may be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement and offer employment opportunities for certified peer specialists. Other mental health services can also benefit from peer specialist services. DMHSAS is aware that, while the interest in use of certified peer specialists is high, the infrastructure is not always in place to support peer specialist services.

DMHSAS is seeking five (5) county and/or tribal agencies that are interested in incorporating certified adult peer specialists into mental health programs. The Division will consider proposals that can utilize these one-time funds to add certified adult peer specialists to programs and sustain their employment over time.

Examples of ways funds can be used:

- Funding of staff to develop policies, procedures or contracts for peer specialist services,
- Supporting salaries of certified peer specialist staff while agencies develop reimbursement processes (Medicaid and/or other revenues),
- Other infrastructure costs to hire, train, and provide certified peer specialist services in the county/tribe while developing sustainability options.

Proposal Application

Please submit a proposal that describes the plan to either begin or enhance the use of certified peer specialists in county/tribal programming. The evaluation criteria below describe the topics which need to be covered in the proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

Statement of need for new certified peer specialists – 10 Points

Describe the need in your county/tribe for certified peer specialists. Describe the program(s) certified peer specialists would be incorporated in and how the transition would occur. Describe the role and services the certified peer specialist would be providing in the programs. Describe how certified peer specialists would be afforded required clinical supervision.

OR

Statement of need for existing certified peer specialists – 10 Points

Describe the barrier the county/tribe has with current utilization of certified peer specialists. Describe the county/tribal plan to reduce the barrier and enhance peer specialist services in mental health programs. Describe the program(s) peer specialists are, or would be, utilized in and the role and services the certified peer specialists would provide. Describe how peer specialists would be afforded the required clinical supervision while providing services.

Capacity for incorporating certified peer specialists – 20 Points

Please describe efforts taken to incorporate certified peer specialists into the county or tribal programs. Describe agency leadership involvement in this process. Identify the county/tribal ability to recruit and/or contract for peer specialists. Describe the ability to receive Medicaid and/or other reimbursement for certified peer specialist services. Describe the willingness and ability of the county/tribe to incorporate peer specialists in long-term meaningful employment.

Proposed Infrastructure Development – 40 Points

Please describe the proposed infrastructure development. Please address the following elements:

- Identify the county or tribe where certified peer specialist services will be used.
- Identify programs in which certified peer specialist services will be offered.
- Identify current and/or proposed use of certified peer specialists and the number of proposed peer specialists to work in affiliated programming.
- Describe supervisory and organizational structure of programs.

- Describe steps supervisors will take to ready staff for the inclusion of peer specialists.
- Identify the infrastructure that needs to be developed and how start-up funds will be utilized to increase access to certified peer specialist services.

Budget – 30 Points

Submit the attached line item budget and justification for all expenses to be incurred for this proposal. Instructions for completion are included in the document. Please only complete one budget spreadsheet per application.

Attachments:

[RFP Budget](#)

Action Summary

Proposals must be postmarked by June 14, 2012.

Mail completed proposals to:

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For additional information and questions regarding this memo:**Regional Office Contact:**

Area Administration

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Memo Websites:

DLTC/DMHSAS Memo Series web page
http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/dsl_info/index.htm

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