

Behavioral Health Telehealth Request for Applications Overview

Background

As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, behavioral health providers have requested support to develop, enhance and/or expand their telehealth infrastructure. Without intervention, the disruption presented by COVID-19 will pose risks to treatment for individuals with substance use disorder and mental health disorders.

Funding Opportunity

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is utilizing available federal grant funding provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support behavioral health telehealth infrastructure improvement activities due to the impact of COVID-19. These funds are derived from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG); therefore, all SABG and MHBG restrictions apply.

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation will assist DHCS with the administration of the funds, which will support organizations to develop, enhance and/or expand their facility's telehealth infrastructure. The purpose of this project is to address the needs of individuals with substance use disorder and/or mental health disorders, including youth and adults with serious emotional disturbances.

There are two individual funding opportunities: 1) Substance Use Disorder Telehealth Activities and 2) Mental Health Telehealth Activities. If more applications are received than funding is available, DHCS will look at adding extra scoring points for providers in counties with the highest mortality rates related to substance use disorder and mental health disorders and for providers who serve patients in predominantly rural areas.

Eligible Organizations

Eligible organizations are those that provide direct treatment and recovery support services and must:

- Be a nonprofit substance use disorder and/or mental health provider licensed and/or certified by DHCS as of July 1, 2020 (for substance use disorder or mental health telehealth activities, depending on funding opportunity applied for)

- This includes the following licenses and/or certifications:
 - Substance Use Disorder
 - Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) License
 - Driving Under the Influence (DUI) License
 - Adult Residential Treatment Facilities
 - Alcohol and Drug Certification
 - Intensive Outpatient Certification
 - Partial Hospitalization Certification
 - Adolescent Residential Treatment Facility Certification
 - Drug Medi-Cal Certification
 - Mental Health
 - Psychiatric Health Facilities (PHFs)
 - Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (MHRCs)
 - Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs)
 - Outpatient Clinics
 - Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)
 - Children’s Crisis Residential Program (CCRP)
 - Social Rehabilitation Program (SRP)
 - Community Treatment Facility (CTF)
 - Skilled Nursing Facilities with Special Treatment (SNF/STP)
- Entities must have a current contract with the county Behavioral Health Department and currently serve ‘safety net’ clients.
- Funding can only be used for provider telehealth development, enhancement and/or expansion.

Funding Amounts and Contract Period

For both funding opportunities, contracts will cover activities beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Funded activities must begin no later than September 30, 2020. Sites may request up to \$50,000 under each funding opportunity. Sites are limited to submitting one application per funding opportunity (i.e. one application for Substance Use Disorder Telehealth Activities and one application for Mental Health Telehealth Activities).*

Allowable Activities and Expenses

Telehealth Infrastructure

Funding may only be allocated to support telehealth infrastructure enhancement and/or expansion for providers, which may include the following:

- Laptops
- Desktops

- Monitors
- Software licenses (including EHR)
- Internet subscription
- Webcams
- Cellular telephones
- Provider-focused telehealth training

Grant funds may not be used to purchase telehealth equipment or Internet subscriptions for clients.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Applicants may allocate up to 10 percent of their total budget to the procurement of PPE supplies, which may include the following items:

- Gloves
- Masks
- Respirators
- Shoe covers
- Glasses
- Gowns
- Head covers

Grant funds may not be used to purchase PPE for clients.

Application Process

The online application is available on [The Center's grant portal](#). Completed applications are DUE by **August 3, 2020 at 1 p.m. PT**. Applicants will be notified of funding selection by **September 15, 2020**. Activities must begin no later than **September 30, 2020** and must be completed on or before **June 30, 2021**.

Organizations operating as a single legal entity that wish to apply for more than one site or for both funding opportunities must submit separate applications for each site/funding opportunity. If submitting multiple applications, please use the above link to initiate an application for each of the individual applications – this will create separate applications under your online account. Individual applications are viewable in the “in-progress applications” section of your account. Once you have created the individual applications with the link above, then you would use the link in the automated e-mail received (after you click “save and finish later”) to return to those applications. If you use the above link, it will create a new application each time instead of returning you to your in-progress applications.

Application and Attachment

See below for an overview of application questions, requirements and attachments.

Funding Reporting Requirements for Both Funding Opportunities

- Progress narrative report (accomplishments, barriers, detailed summary of progress)
- Final narrative report (accomplishments, barriers, detailed summary of progress) – due at end of activity period (June 30, 2021)
- Financial report with brief narrative overview

If you have questions, please reach out to centergrants@shfcenter.org.

**Definition of “Site”: If an organization has separate physical locations/sites that individually meet all of the eligibility criteria for each opportunity (primarily around DHCS licensing/county contracts), then each individual site/location may submit an application under each opportunity, if desired. A separate application is required for each site and each opportunity. For example, if organization A has a location in City B and City C and would like to submit an application for each site and for each opportunity, they would submit four applications: 1) Organization A site in City B for Substance Use Disorder application, 2) Organization A site in City B for Mental Health application, 3) Organization A site in City C for Substance Use Disorder application, 4) Organization A site in City C for Mental Health application.*

Behavioral Health Telehealth Request for Applications Outline

Applicant Organization Information

Organization Name

Address

County

Phone

URL (optional)

Director/CEO Contact Name

Director/CEO Contact Title

Director E-mail Address

Director Phone

Application Contact

Application Contact E-mail Address

Application Contact Phone

Applicant Organization Tax ID #

DUNS #, if applicable

SAM expiration date, if applicable

Congressional District of applicant organization's primary location

Congressional District(s) where organization's beneficiaries live

Project Information

Project Name (10 words maximum):

Brief Summary and Purpose of Project (300 words maximum):

TOTAL Amount Requested: \$_____

Up to \$50,000

Start Date: September 1, 2020, but no later than September 30, 2020

End Date: Organizations may expend funds until June 30, 2021

Opportunity Applying For

Please indicate which opportunity you are applying under:

SUD Telehealth Activities

MH Telehealth Activities

Geography

Please indicate in which county your site is located. Please check below if you serve patients in rural areas.

List of counties with percentages

- Serving patients in rural areas

Targeted Populations (classifications)

Select all the populations served. Only one box must be checked.

- Youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED)
- Adults with serious emotional disturbances (SED)
- Youth with MH disorders
- Adults with MH disorders
- Youth with SUD
- Adults with SUD

Targeted Populations (Race/Ethnicity)

For the racial and ethnic populations that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage of the total people of each population (total must add up to 100.)

- African-American/Black: %
- Asian-American/API: %
- Latino/Hispanic: %
- Native American: %
- White: %
- Mixed race: %
- Other: % [please specify]

Narrative Questions

Need

Briefly describe the need to improve your facility's telehealth infrastructure, especially as it relates to the impact of COVID-19. Include a description of your facility's existing telehealth infrastructure and capacity to provide telehealth services. (500 word maximum)

Desired Outcomes

Describe your organization's desired outcome of improving your telehealth infrastructure. (300 word maximum)

Population Served

Describe how your organization will utilize this funding to serve individuals with health disparities, including those living in rural areas. (200 word maximum)

Assurances

- The applicant organization agrees to HIPAA compliance.
- The applicant organization has a current contract with the county Behavioral Health entity.

Attachments

- Proposed Itemized Budget
 - Applicants must use the provided budget template
- Proposed Corresponding Budget Narrative (required)
 - Applications must include the type and quantity of budgeted telehealth equipment or PPE items
- Copy of DHCS license and/or certification (required)
- Copy of county Behavioral Health Department contract (required)
- Applicant organization's W-9 (required)