

mental health service providers, housing providers, and homeless service providers.

- Provide emergency funds to enable persons to remain housed, including purchase groceries or household supplies, pay utility bills, etc.
- Create sustainability of services by getting clients on Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Using mainstream Federal, state and local resources (such as Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG), Social Services Block Grant, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) etc.) to fund services beyond this initiative.
- Train direct care providers and others in the system serving the target population about provision of substance abuse treatment and/or mental health services to persons who are homeless.

B. Funding Restrictions

SAMHSA funds may NOT be used to:

- Pay for housing (other than residential substance abuse treatment).
- Provide services to incarcerated populations (defined as those persons in jail, prison, detention facilities, or in custody where they are not free to move about in the community).
- Carry out syringe exchange programs, such as the purchase and distribution of syringes and/or needles.
- Pay for treatment of diseases other than substance abuse and mental health disorders; e.g., SAMHSA funds may not be used to pay for pharmacologies for HIV antiretroviral therapy, STDs, TB and hepatitis B and C.

IV. Application Selection Process

A. Funding Criteria

Decisions to fund a SAMHSA grant are based on:

1. Threshold requirements.
2. Technical Merit.
3. Availability of funds.
4. Evidence of non-supplantation of funds.
5. Continued funding contingent on ability to fund services in the second and third years of this initiative through other resources such as Medicaid, Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG).

B. Threshold Requirements

Applications will not be accepted for review by SAMHSA and will be returned for the following reasons:

1. The applicant organization is ineligible.

2. Proof of at least two years of service provision and licensure by the lead applicant is not attached.

C. Agency-Specific Review Criteria for Technical Merit

The determination of the technical merit of the substance abuse and mental health section of the application will be based on the quality, feasibility and comprehensiveness of the project narrative, described in the SAMHSA Section of the Application Kit. A maximum of 25 points can be earned for specific behavioral health criteria. For example, a perfect score for Section A will result in a rating of 10 points.

D. SAMHSA Review Criteria:

1. Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services (10 Points)

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the substance abuse and mental health services array proposed for clients of the grant conforms to identified needs, is accessible, appropriately coordinated or integrated, and is evidence-based.

2. Sustainability (7 Points)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and feasibility of the applicant's plan to obtain mainstream funding for the substance abuse and mental health services offered to clients in years 2 and 3 of the grant program. The assessment of readiness to identify appropriate mainstream sources and to pursue billing and collection activity will form an important predictor of the applicant's ability to obtain continuation grant funding by meeting mainstream financing goals described above.

3. Evaluation/Methodology (3 Points)

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the proposed local evaluation will ensure objective measurement of progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the grant. The criteria will also address the extent to which the proposed output and outcome data collection will accommodate CMHS and CSAT GPRA data reporting requirements. Special emphasis will be placed on the applicant's ability to identify and enroll clients in mainstream entitlement programs and collect mainstream reimbursements for substance abuse and mental health treatment services.

4. Project Management: Implementation Plan, Organization, Staff, Equipment/Facilities, and Other Support (5 Points)

Points will be awarded based on the adequacy of resources dedicated to accomplishing the substance abuse and

mental health objectives of the grant program. Resources include quantity and quality of proposed staffing, strength of implementation planning, and ability to leverage other behavioral health resources.

E. Evaluation Requirements

Applicants may allocate no more than 15 percent of grant funds to their local evaluation activities including collection of GPRA measures.

1. Government Performance and Results Act. The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) mandates accountability and performance-based management by Federal agencies, focusing on results or outcomes in evaluating effectiveness of Federal activities and on measuring progress toward achieving national goals and objectives. Grantees must comply with GPRA data collection and reporting requirements, including the collection of CSAT and CMHS Core Client Outcomes.

2. Local Evaluation. Grantees will be expected to develop a plan for evaluating their programs. At minimum, the local evaluations should include both process and outcome evaluations using GPRA client outcome measures and other measures as appropriate. Grantees should describe linkages to GPRA measures.

F. Post-Award Requirements

SAMHSA will provide post award support to grantees through technical assistance on mental health and substance abuse services. Grantees will be required to attend (and, thus must budget for) one jointly sponsored SAMHSA/HRSA technical assistance meeting in the first year of the grant, and one meeting in each of the remaining years. Each meeting will be two days. A minimum of three persons must attend, which can include housing, mental health, and substance abuse representatives. Consumers are encouraged to attend. These meetings will be held in the Baltimore/Washington, DC area.

The applicant must notify the Single State Agency (SSA) within 30 days of receipt of an award. Notify the SSA for mental health for projects providing mental health services; the SSA for substance abuse for projects providing substance abuse treatment services; and the SSA for mental health and substance abuse if serving populations with co-occurring disorders.