

## I. Funding Opportunity Description

### A. Introduction

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announces its intent to solicit applications for Infrastructure Grants. These grants will increase the capacity of mental health and/or substance abuse service systems to support effective programs and services. Applicants who seek Federal support to develop or enhance their service system infrastructure in order to support effective substance abuse and/or mental health services should apply for awards under this announcement.

SAMHSA also funds grants under three other standard grant announcements:

- *Services Grants* provide funding to implement substance abuse and mental health services.
- *Best Practices Planning and Implementation Grants* help communities and providers identify practices to effectively meet local needs, develop strategic plans for implementing/adapting those practices and pilot-test practices prior to full-scale implementation.
- *Service to Science Grants* document and evaluate innovative practices that address critical substance abuse and mental health service gaps but that have not yet been formally evaluated.

This announcement describes the general program design and provides application instructions for all SAMHSA Infrastructure Grants. The availability of funds for specific Infrastructure Grants will be announced in supplementary Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) in the **Federal Register** and at <http://www.grants.gov>—the Federal grant announcement Web page.

Typically, funding for Infrastructure Grants will be targeted to specific populations and/or issue areas, which will be specified in the NOFAs. The NOFAs will also:

- Specify total funding available for the first year of the grants and the expected size and number of awards;
- Provide the application deadline;
- Note any specific program requirements for each funding opportunity; and
- Include any limitations or exceptions to the general provisions in this announcement (e.g., eligibility, allowable activities).

It is, therefore, critical that you consult the NOFA as well as this announcement in developing your grant application.

### B. Expectations

SAMHSA's Infrastructure Grants support an array of activities to help the grantee build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining effective substance abuse prevention and/or treatment and/or mental health services.

SAMHSA recognizes that each applicant will start from a unique point in developing infrastructure and will serve populations/communities with specific needs. Awardees may pursue diverse strategies and methods to achieve their infrastructure development and capacity expansion goals. Successful applicants will provide a coherent and detailed conceptual "roadmap" of the process by which they have assessed or intend to assess service system needs and plan/implement infrastructure development strategies that meet those needs. The plan put forward in the grant application must show the linkages among needs, the proposed infrastructure development strategy, and increased system capacity that will enhance and sustain effective programs and services.

#### 1. Allowable Activities

SAMHSA's Infrastructure Grants will support the following types of activities: Infrastructure Development—Infrastructure Grant funds must be used primarily to support infrastructure development, including the following types of activities:

- Needs assessment;
- Strategic planning;
- Financing/coordination of funding streams;
- Organizational/structural change (e.g., to create locus of responsibility for a specific issue/population, or to increase access to or efficiency of services);
- Development of interagency coordination mechanisms;
- Provider/network development;
- Policy development to support needed service system improvements (e.g., rate-setting activities, establishment of standards of care, development/revision of credentialing, licensure, or accreditation requirements);
- Quality improvement efforts;
- Performance measurement development;
- Workforce development (e.g., training, support for licensure, credentialing, or accreditation);
- Data infrastructure/MIS development.

Implementation Pilots (maximum 15 percent of total grant award)—Depending on the scope of the project

(see description of award categories below), up to 15 percent of the total grant award may be used for "implementation pilots" to test the effectiveness of the infrastructure changes on services delivery. Funds may not be used to provide direct services except in the context of an implementation pilot.

#### 2. Grantee Meetings

You must plan to send a minimum of two people (including the Project Director) to at least one joint grantee meeting in each year of the grant, and you must include funding for this travel in your budget. At these meetings, grantees will present the results of their projects and Federal staff will provide technical assistance. Each meeting will be 3 days. These meetings will usually be held in the Washington, DC, area, and attendance is mandatory.

#### 3. Data and Performance Measurement

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-62, or "GPRA") requires all Federal agencies to:

- Develop strategic plans that specify what they will accomplish over a 3 to 5-year period;
- Set performance targets annually related to their strategic plan; and
- Report annually on the degree to which the previous year's targets were met.

The law further requires agencies to link their performance to their budgets. Agencies are expected to evaluate their programs regularly and to use results of these evaluations to explain their successes and failures.

To meet these requirements, SAMHSA must collect performance data (i.e., "GPRA data") from grantees. You are required to report these GPRA data to SAMHSA on a timely basis so that performance results are available to support budgetary decisions.

In particular, you will be required to provide data on a core set of required measures, depending on the SAMHSA Center that is funding the grant. In your application, you must demonstrate your ability to collect and report on these measures, and you must provide some baseline data.

Appendix A provides the performance indicators for SAMHSA's Infrastructure grantees. For complete information on the core measures relating to these indicators and the methodology for data collection and reporting, please consult the following Web sites:

- Center for Mental Health Services-funded grants: <http://www.samhsa.gov/aps/CMHS/GPRA>;