

B. Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372) Instructions  
 C. Public Health System Impact Statement  
 Appendix A: Checklist for Application Formatting Requirements  
 Appendix B: Glossary  
 Appendix C: National Registry of Effective Prevention Programs  
 Appendix D: Center for Mental Health Services Evidence-Based Practices Toolkits  
 Appendix E: Effective Substance Abuse Treatment Practices  
 Appendix F: Logic Model Resources

## I. Funding Opportunity Description

### A. Introduction

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announces its intent to solicit applications for Best Practices Planning and Implementation (BPPI) grants for substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. These grants will help communities and providers identify substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment, and/or mental health practices, develop strategic plans for implementing/adapting those practices, and pilot-test the practices. The practices proposed by applicants for SAMHSA's BPPI grants must incorporate the best objective information available regarding effectiveness and acceptability. Often, these practices will have strong evidence of effectiveness. However, because the evidence base is limited in some areas, SAMHSA may fund some practices for which the evidence base, while limited, is sound.

SAMHSA also funds grants under three other standard grant announcements:

- *Services Grants* provide funding to implement substance abuse and mental health services.
- *Infrastructure Grants* support identification and implementation of systems changes but are not designed to fund services.
- *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 BPPI Grants. The availability of funds for specific BPPI Grants will be announced in supplementary Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) in the **Federal Register** and at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)—the Federal grant announcement Web page.

Typically, funding for BPPI 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, award size, 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 BPPI program promotes the use of practices that incorporate the best objective information available regarding effectiveness and acceptability. SAMHSA refers to these as "best practices." BPPI grants may address needs in the areas of substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment and/or mental health services. SAMHSA understands that the "best practices" proposed for BPPI grants may need to be adapted to certain populations. Therefore, SAMHSA's BPPI grants support adaptation and evaluation of best practices in addition to planning and implementation.

#### 1. Documenting the Evidence-Base for Selected Practices

Applicants must document in their applications that the practices they propose to implement are evidence-based practices. In addition, applicants must justify use of the proposed practices for the target population along with any adaptations or modifications necessary to meet the unique needs of the target population or otherwise increase the likelihood of achieving positive outcomes. Further guidance on each of these requirements is provided below.

*Documenting the Evidence-Based Practice/Service.* SAMHSA has already determined that certain practices are solidly evidence-based practices and encourages applicants to select practices from the following sources (though this is not required):

- SAMHSA's National Registry of Effective Programs (NREP) (see Appendix C).
- Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Evidence Based Practice Tool Kits (see Appendix D).
- List of Evidence-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Practices (see Appendix E).

• Additional practices identified in the NOFA for a specific funding opportunity, if applicable.

Applicants proposing practices that are not included in the above-referenced sources must provide a narrative justification that summarizes the evidence for effectiveness and acceptability of the proposed practice. The preferred evidence of effectiveness and acceptability will include the findings from clinical trials, efficacy and/or effectiveness studies published in the peer-reviewed literature.

In areas where little or no research has been published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature, the applicant may present evidence involving studies that have not been published in the peer-reviewed research literature and/or documents describing formal consensus among recognized experts. If consensus documents are presented, they must describe consensus among multiple experts whose work is recognized and respected by others in the field. Local recognition of an individual as a respected or influential person at the community level is not considered a "recognized expert" for this purpose.

In presenting evidence in support of the proposed practice, applicants must show that the evidence presented is the best objective information available.

*Justifying Selection of the Practice/Service for the Target Population.* Regardless of the strength of the evidence-base for the practice, all applicants must show that the proposed practice is appropriate for the proposed target population. Ideally, this evidence will include research findings on effectiveness and acceptability specific to the proposed target population. However, if such evidence is not available, the applicant should provide a justification for using the proposed practice with the target population. This justification might involve, for example, a description of adaptations to the proposed practice based on other research involving the target population.

*Justifying Adaptations/Modifications of the Proposed Practice.* SAMHSA has found that a high degree of faithfulness or "fidelity" (see Glossary) to the original model for an evidence-based practice increases the likelihood that positive outcomes will be achieved when the model is used by others. Therefore, SAMHSA encourages fidelity to the original evidence-based practice to be implemented. However, SAMHSA recognizes that adaptations or modifications to the original model may be necessary for a variety of reasons:

- To allow implementers to use resources efficiently.