

consumers are the best and most effective change agents.

The Statewide Consumer Network grants will support State-level consumer-run organizations to assist consumers to participate in the development of policies, programs, and quality assurance activities related to the Final Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health as it applies to mental health service delivery. Grantees are especially encouraged to utilize training capacity, network development, organizational and community readiness, and policy development to support best practices but are not limited to these specific activities. Examples of the types of community services that grantees will work to improve include State planning boards and councils, individualized plans of care, anti-stigma initiatives, interactions with the criminal justice system, supported employment programs, rights protection, cultural competence, outreach to people in rural areas, people of color and older-adults: research on recovery, trauma and medication; evidence based determinations and applications; workforce development; tele-health and other on line supports including personal recovery pages.

**Background:** The Statewide Consumer Network Grant Program builds on the work of the Federal Community Support Program (CSP). The Center for Mental Health Services has supported the development of accessible, responsive mental health treatment, rehabilitation, and supportive services for people with a serious mental illness through CSP. The mission of CSP is to promote the development of systems of care which help adults with serious mental illness recover, live independently and productively in the community, and avoid inappropriate use of institutions.

CSP helped to establish consumer and family organizations throughout the country. Today, nearly every State has an active consumer organization dedicated to promoting systems of care that are responsive to the needs of people with a serious mental illness. By providing appropriate training and tools in the development of individualized mental health plans, understanding the need and use of accountability and evaluation measures, and the many other self-help, self-management skills, consumers can provide the guidance and foresight into changing the present system to a recover-oriented system for all peers and thereby ensuring the implementation of the goals of the Final Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

**Estimated Funding Available/Number of Awards:** It is expected that \$1.5 million will be available in FY 2004 to fund approximately 20–22 awards of up to \$70,000 per year in total costs (direct and indirect), with a limit of one award per State. It is expected that only Category 1-Small Infrastructure Grant awards, as defined in the INF–04 PA, will be made. Applications that include proposed budgets that exceed \$70,000 in any year will be returned without review. The actual amount available for the awards may vary, depending on unanticipated program requirements and the number and quality of the applications received. This program is being announced prior to the annual appropriation for FY 2004 for SAMHSA's programs, with funding estimates based on the President's budget request for FY 2004 and/or preliminary Congressional action on SAMHSA's appropriation. Applications are invited based on the assumption that sufficient funds will be appropriated for FY 2004 to permit funding of a reasonable number of applications hereby solicited. This program is being announced in order to allow applicants sufficient time to plan and prepare applications. Solicitation of applications in advance of a final appropriation will also enable the award of appropriated grant funds in an expeditious manner. All applicants are reminded, however, that we cannot guarantee that sufficient funds will be appropriated to permit SAMHSA to fund any applications.

**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants are limited to domestic private, nonprofit entities, including faith-based entities and currently funded Statewide Consumer Network Grantees that (1) are controlled and managed by mental health consumers; (2) are dedicated to the improvement of mental health services statewide; and (3) have a Board of Directors comprised of more than 51 percent consumers. SAMHSA is limiting eligibility to consumer-controlled organizations because the goals of this grant program are to: to strengthen the capacity of consumers to act as agents of transformation in influencing the type and amount of services and supports provided to people with a serious mental illness and to ensure that their mental health care is consumer driven. Applicants will be required to complete and sign a Certification of Eligibility and provide necessary supportive documentation. This certification will be provided in the application kit, available from the National Mental Health Information Center, and will also

be posted on the SAMHSA Web page along with the NOFA.

Additional information regarding eligibility, including program requirements and formatting requirements, is provided in the INF–04 PA. Applications that do not comply with these requirements will be screened out and will not be reviewed.

**Period of Support:** Awards will be made for project periods of up to three years, with annual continuations depending on the availability of funds, grantee progress in meeting program goals and objectives, and timely submission of required data and reports.

**Is Cost Sharing or Matching Required:** No.

**Exceptions to the INF–04 and Other Special Requirements:** The following information describes exceptions or limitations to the INF–04 PA and provides special requirements that pertain only to the Statewide Consumer Network Grants:

- **Review Criteria/Project Narrative—** Applicants for Statewide Consumer Networks grants are required to address the following requirements in the Project Narrative of their applications, in addition to the requirements specified in the INF–04 PA:

- (1) In Section B, applicants must describe how the primary focus of the proposed project will include work to transform the system through specific training and capacity building activities, and network and policy development that reflects the goals of the Final Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

- (2) In Section B, applications must describe the applicant's collaborations with other family and consumer networks, the State Director of Consumer Affairs in the State office of mental health (if applicable), consumers on the State Planning Council, and other disability groups.

- (3) In Section C, applicants must describe the applicant's organizational mission and how its scope of work reflects statewide focus on consumers with a serious mental illness and promotes the concepts of consumer self-help; management plan and staffing.

- **Performance Measurement—**All SAMHSA grantees are required to collect performance data so that SAMHSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). In Section D of their applications, applicants for the Statewide Consumer Networks Program must document their ability to collect and report data on all the following indicators:

- An increase in the number of consumers served; and