

# **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHSBG)**

## **What is the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Program?**

- The CMHSBG is authorized by Part B of Title XIX of the Public Health Service Act.
  - This is the single largest Federal contribution dedicated to improving mental health (MH) service systems across the country.
  - The CMHSBG awards grants to states to provide MH services.
- Through the CMHSBG, a joint federal-state partnership, the Center for Mental Health Services supports existing public services and encourages the development of creative and cost-effective systems of community based care.

## **Who oversees the CMHSBG?**

- The Center for Mental Health Services.
- This is the federal agency that oversees the State Mental Health Plans and Implementation reports using MH experts for the regional reviews of each state plan.

## **What does the CMHSBG program do?**

- Helps each state or territory to develop and implement its own State Mental Health Plan for improving community-based services and reducing reliance on hospitalization.
- The program stipulates that case management be provided to individuals with the most serious mental illness (SMI).
- The program also encourages appropriate partnerships among a wide range of health, dental, mental health, vocational, housing, and educational services.
- The program also promotes partnerships among Federal, State, and local government agencies.
- CMHSBG supports grassroots involvement of the major stakeholders in MH services at both the State and Federal levels.

## **Requirements of the Block Grant Law**

- Since 1986, each State is required to have a mental health planning council to review the State Mental Health Plan.
- Opportunity for public comments on the CMHSBG application are required.
- A description of documentation showing that public comments on the plan were received.
- Not less than 50% of the members of the planning council shall be individuals who are **not** state employees or providers.
- The ratio of parents of children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) to other members will be sufficient to provide adequate representation of children with SED.
- Documentation signed by the Chairperson/Co-chairs of the council, that the council reviewed the State Block Grant Plan which includes any recommendations of the Council for modifications to the plan.
- Evidence to demonstrate that the Council serves as an advocate for adults with SMI and children with SED.

## **The Mental Health Planning Council**

- **Each council must include the following:**
  - Consumers of MH services
  - Family members
  - Service providers
  - State officials

## **Required State Agencies**

- State Mental Health Agency
- State Social Services Agency
- State Medicaid Agency
- State Education Agency
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- State Criminal Justice
- Housing Agency

## **Duties of the Mental Health Planning Council**

- To review plans provided to the Council pursuant to Section 1915 (a) by the state involved and to submit to the State any recommendations of the Council for modifications to the plans.
- To serve as an advocate for adults with SMI, children with SED, and other individuals with mental illness or emotional problems.
- To monitor, review, and evaluate, not less than once each year, the allocation and adequacy of MH services within the state.

## **Timeline for the CMHSBG**

- Grant applications are due to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- The state will lose its funding if the applications are not at SAMSHA by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A formal consultative review of the grant application takes place in early October of each year.
- At the review, the grant will be approved, disapproved, or approved with modification.

## **The Implementation Report**

- The Implementation report along with the data is due to SAMHSA on December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- The report includes the purposes for which the CMHSBG monies were expended, the recipients of grant funds, and a description of block grant-funded activities.
- The report shall focus on the extent to which the State has implemented its plan for the Fiscal Year, with particular attention given to the goals, objectives, and performance indicators.

## Modifications

- Modifications are due to CMHS within 30 days that notification is received that a modification is needed.
- Modifications can be any of the following:
  - To clarify a topic
  - To expand on a topic
  - To add information
  - To determine the impact of a change in finances.
- Any comments from the Mental Health Planning Council are included with this report.
- The Data Tables also called the URS Tables are considered a component of the Implementation Report.

## How can I provide comments on the State Plan for mental health services?

- The 2008-2010 CMHSBG Application can be viewed at the following links:
  - <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/General/FormsPub/MentalHealthPublications/>
  - [http://pacounties.org/mhmr/lib/mhmr/Block\\_grant\\_Draft\\_2\\_sent\\_8-29-07\\_%282%29.doc](http://pacounties.org/mhmr/lib/mhmr/Block_grant_Draft_2_sent_8-29-07_%282%29.doc)
  - **Hard copies can be obtained by contacting:**  
Natalie Shaffer  
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- Comments may be submitted to Natalie Shaffer at [natshaffer@state.pa.us](mailto:natshaffer@state.pa.us). Comments received after September 1<sup>st</sup> will be included in the implementation report.