

# Changes to the Mental Health Block Grant



**FY 2012-2013**

# What is the Block Grant??



- **A FORMULA GRANT ISSUED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH SAMHSA**
- **STATES APPLY FOR, AND RECEIVE, A CHUNK OF MONEY TO BE USED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES DETERMINED BY SAMHSA**
- **LAST FY, PENNSYLVANIA RECEIVED \$14.4 MILLION DOLLARS FROM SAMHSA**
- **STATES MUST SUBMIT A YEARLY REPORT TO SAMHSA OUTLINING HOW BLOCK GRANT FUNDS WERE UTILIZED**

# Why is it Changing?



- **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (HEALTHCARE REFORM)**
- **SAMHSA IS LOOKING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND OUTCOMES (DATA)**
- **SAMHSA WANTS TO STEAMLINER THE MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT AND THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS**

# What is Changing?



**GOOD QUESTION! SAMHSA HAS NOT FINALIZED THE NEW GUIDELINES YET AND IS STILL WORKING OUT THE DETAILS AS WE SPEAK**

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM PENNSYLVANIA WILL BE ATTENDING A CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C. AT THE END OF JUNE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES**

**WHILE WE CAN HIGHLIGHT A FEW CHANGES, THE LIST IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE OR FINALIZED**

# Key Changes



## **SAMHSA IS ADVOCATING FOUR NEW PURPOSES FOR BLOCK GRANT FUNDS:**

- 1. FUND TREATMENT AND SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT INSURANCE**
- 2. FUND TREATMENT SERVICES NOT COVERED BY MEDICAID, MEDICARE, OR PRIVATE INSURANCE THAT DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS IN IMPROVING OUTCOMES AND PROMOTING RECOVERY**

# Key Changes (cont)



**3. FUND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING TREATMENT**

**4. COLLECT PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME DATA TO DETERMINE EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENTS AND SERVICES**

# What do These Changes Mean for the Planning Council?



**THE BLOCK GRANT STILL REQUIRES THAT STATES MAINTAIN A “PLANNING COUNCIL” WITH AT LEAST 51% OF THE MEMBERS BEING CONSUMERS/FAMILY MEMBERS/SURVIVORS**

**THE PLANNING COUNCIL IS STILL REQUIRED TO REVIEW THE BLOCK GRANT BEFORE IT IS SUBMITTED TO SAMHSA**

**OMHSAS IS CONVENING A BLOCK GRANT WORKGROUP THIS SUMMER- IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CO-CHAIRS**



## Additional Resources

- SAMHSA's website:  
<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/blockgrant>
- Pennsylvania's FY 2011/2012 block grant application:  
[http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/communication/s\\_002849.pdf](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/communication/s_002849.pdf)

Pennsylvania's FY 2010/2011 block grant report:

[http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/report/p\\_003123.pdf](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ucmprd/groups/webcontent/documents/report/p_003123.pdf)

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