

**Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHSBG)
 SFY21-22 Funding Opportunities for County Mental Health Administrators
 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Question	Answer
For the Residential Treatment funding opportunity, will OMHSAS allow programs that qualify as Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD)?	No. Proposals for the Residential Services Opportunity will be considered for this CMHSBG funding opportunity only if they are under the IMD threshold of 16 beds.
For the Residential Treatment funding opportunity, are room and board costs allowable expenditures?	No. Housing costs are not federally allowable expenditures for CMHSBG. Proposal for the Residential Treatment funding opportunity will not be accepted with room and board costs for individuals served included in the proposal. The funds are intended to provide start-up funding costs for staffing and treatment service costs which are not Medicaid billable.
How can we ensure Student Assistance Program (SAP) proposals meet the CMHSBG requirement to target funding to children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)?	The Student Assistance Program (SAP) does not engage in universal screening of students, all students referred to SAP have been identified as needing support due to an impairment that is substantially interfering with the student’s functioning in school. While mental illness is not the sole source of these functional impairments, of the over 14,000 assessment conducted in SFY19-20, 70.6% of cases identified mental health services as the appropriate mechanism to address the functional impairment. Any projects accepted for CMHSBG funding opportunity must be targeted to the professional staff from community behavioral health agencies that support this substantial portion of students served by SAP Teams who meet the 1993 Federal Register definition of SED of having a “diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within the DSM” which has “resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits the child’s role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.” The CMHSBG funding may not be utilized for portions of SAP programs that address children with issues outside of SED.

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<p>Can Technology Infrastructure for Telehealth proposals include purchases of devices or internet service for clients?</p>	<p>While OMHSAS recognizing the significant concerns about device and internet access for individuals served and their families, based on federal guidance, CMHSBG funding may not be utilized to purchase devices or internet services for individuals served and their families. This prohibition includes the creation of “lending libraries” that loan individuals served and their family’s devices. Proposal that include the purchase of devices or internet services for individuals served and families cannot be approved for funding.</p> <p>The Telehealth Technology Infrastructure Project aims to strengthen community resources for accessing telehealth services. OMHSAS will consider proposals from counties to develop telehealth access locations, provide training and technical assistance to behavioral health providers to maximize the utilization of audio-video equipment, and staffing costs to coordinate technology support opportunities.</p>
<p>Would you like to see a budget for projects in the letters of interest (LOI)?</p>	<p>No, a full budget is not required with the Letters of Interest. In the LOI Narrative, the county should include the total requested funding and a very brief summary of the anticipated costs (about one paragraph). A full budget will be required to be submitted as a part of the full application for projects selected based on the LOI.</p>
<p>Will DHS allow the County Match to come from the Human Services Block Grant?</p>	<p>Other state funding, including Human Services Block Grant Funding (HSBG), may not be utilized to meet County Match Requirements for start-up funding projects.</p>
<p>If we are interested in multiple projects will we be asked to complete multiple letters of interest?</p>	<p>Yes, each project whether county-specific or regional collaboration must be submitted as a separate LOI.</p>

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What would be an acceptable revision of a currently existing Mobile Crisis Service?	OMHSAS will consider initiatives that expand the breadth and scope of existing mobile crisis services. Examples of expansion may include substantially increasing the number of individuals served, implementing new service elements, or deploying services to currently underserved locations. It is important to note that this funding opportunity is not intended to supplant existing funds and services. If you have questions regarding a specific scenario, please submit your question and situational details to RA-PWOMHCMHSBG@PA.GOV
If accepted for implementation of this grant, how long will be the funding be available to support the projects? What is the timeline for funds to be spent? Is the two-year funding period based on the fiscal year or calendar year?	Selected County/Joiners will receive CMHSBG COVID-19 funds as a part of the SFY21-22 Primary Allocation Letter. Any unspent funds as of June 30, 2022 must be reported on the County Income and Expenditure Report to be considered for carry over. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2023. Throughout the two-year grant period, counties will need to comply with fiscal reporting requirements for OMHSAS monitoring of the projects.
The survey that was distributed said the deadline for completion was in March. Has that been extended?	Yes, the survey link will remain active and available through May 10, 2021.
Who should we contact if we need help with the application?	A resource account has been established to facilitate and expedite responses to your questions. Please submit all questions to RA-PWOMHCMHSBG@PA.GOV
Is there a maximum or minimum amount available to be requested through this grant opportunity?	A minimum or maximum amount for each LOI submitted has not been established. The overall grant funding available to distribute to all approved projects is \$29.5M and OMHSAS will make determinations on the number of projects/amounts of funding per project based on all LOIs received.

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Is the 10 percent county match required only for start-up programs or for all projects funded by CMHSBG?	The 10 percent county funding match is required for start-up programs only under this grant opportunity.
Will there be consideration to sustain programs funding beyond 2 years?	Yes. OMHSAS will closely monitor and review each approved initiative over the two-year span of the grant funding. Projects that demonstrate measurable and sustainable outcomes may be considered for continued funding under CMHSBG or other funding streams. There is no guarantee, however, that funding will continue to be available after the initial two-year project window and grantees are encouraged to coordinate and collaborate locally to identify and demonstrate pathways toward sustainability.
Regarding the 10 percent county match, will it be adjusted to our Block Grant match of around 5 percent?	No. The Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) is separate and distinct from the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHSBG). The CMHSBG funding awarded under this initiative requires 10 percent county funding match for start-up projects.