



Solicitation Title: Community Mental Health Grant

Solicitation Number: HHS0013925

#	Reference	Question	Response
1.		Are previously funded Community Mental Health Grant awardees required to reapply for funding to continue or does this RFA apply to expansion/new projects only?	Yes. All current Community Mental Health Grant (CMHG) Grant Agreements end August 31, 2024. Current grantees with an interest in continuing or expanding projects presently funded by CMHG must apply under RFA No. HHS0013925. Refer to Section 7.1, Schedule of Events, of the RFA.
2.	Eligible Activities page 12	We want to know if we can expand our original proposal—which is now a vital programming serving hundreds of individuals and families in the Heart of Texas Region—to include projects that are related to HHSC’s Strategic Plan but were not part of our initial proposal.	Yes. All current CMHG Grant Agreements end August 31, 2024. Current grantees with an interest in continuing or expanding projects presently funded by CMHG must apply under RFA No. HHS0013925. Refer to Section 7.1, Schedule of Events, of the RFA.
3.		We currently have a CMHG grant (HB13) back from 2017. Is this RFA replacing that grant program, expanding that program, or a combination thereof? We ask to see if we need to reapply for our former HB13 grant program under this RFA or not.	All current CMHG Grant Agreements end August 31, 2024. Current grantees with an interest in continuing or expanding projects presently funded by CMHG must apply under RFA No. HHS0013925. Refer to Section 7.1, Schedule of Events, of the RFA.



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4.	Article III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, Paragraph 3.3 Grant Award Eligibility, pg.18, "Applications or proposals from entities that were not designated as grantees in the previous State Fiscal Year."	I could not find anywhere in the NOFO that discussed the renewal of prior funding for past awardees. Is a renewal of an existing project allowable, or does the funding need to be an expansion? Or a combination of both renewal and expansion?	All current CMHG Grant Agreements end August 31, 2024. Current grantees with an interest in continuing or expanding projects presently funded by CMHG must apply under RFA No. HHS0013925. Refer to Section 7.1, Schedule of Events, of the RFA.
5.		Can the matching fund be provided internally by our organization's operating funds or must the match be external?	Yes. Match funding can come from cash (<i>i.e.</i> , non-State and non-federal amounts spent on the grant), or in-kind (<i>i.e.</i> , non-cash matching that uses non-monetary resources to fulfill a portion of the required financial Match for a grant or funding opportunity) sources. Refer to Section 5.4, Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements, of the RFA.
6.		We are hoping to request funding for a project that begins in March but, noted that the funding would not begin until September if awarded. Would this project still be eligible for award funds/reimbursement if it begins before the funding period?	Refer to Section 5.2, No Guarantee of Reimbursement Amount, of the RFA which states in its last paragraph that " <i>(r)eimbursement will only be made for actual, allowable, and allocable expenses that occur within the Project Period. No spending or costs incurred prior to the Effective Date of this Grant Agreement will be eligible for reimbursement.</i> "



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7.		The budget template provided with the RFA includes a tab for an "in-kind match", is this optional? If not, can you please elaborate on the requirements of this section? We would not have any in-kind gifts for this project.	Matching funds are required; however, in-kind contributions are optional. Match funding can come from cash (<i>i.e.</i> , non-state and non-federal amounts spent on the grant), or in-kind (<i>i.e.</i> , non-cash matching that uses non-monetary resources to fulfill a portion of the required financial Match for a grant or funding opportunity) sources. Refer to Section 5.4, Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements, of the RFA.
8.	Exhibit A, Item #13, pg. 2 of 13	If [REDACTED] is a psycho-social program, involved in the community where individuals living with mental health conditions are empowered to gain confidence and independence. Recovery of mental health conditions is achieved through individuals living and working together to discover and build new and hidden talents. Does the [REDACTED] qualify for all preferences claimed under 34 Administrative Code, Section 20.306 or chapter 2055, Subchapter H of the Texas Government Code according to the following category: Products of persons with intellectual or physical disabilities ?	Applicant would not qualify for preference claimed under 34 Texas Administrative Code, Section 20.306 or Chapter 2155, Subchapter H of the Texas Government Code, based on the provided example. To qualify for a preference, Applicant must offer a good(s), service(s), or product(s) as described in the preference. For example, to qualify for the "products of persons with intellectual or physical disabilities", Applicant must offer as part of its normal business operation products manufactured, created, built, assembled, or otherwise developed by individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities.
9.	Exhibit A, Item #27, pg. 5 of 13 Disaster Recovery Plan	Respondent agrees that upon request of HHS, Respondent shall provide copies of its most recent business continuity and disaster recovery plans. Can HHSC provide an example of a previously filed business continuity and disaster recovery plan?	No, HHSC cannot provide an example. A Disaster Response Plan that contemplates continuity of operations in the event of a man-made crises, natural disaster, or other emergency situation is organization specific. Descriptions, resources, and examples are readily available via web search. Refer to Section 2.7, Grantee's Responsibilities, of the RFA.



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10.	Regarding Exhibit A, item #30, page 5 of 13 Cybersecurity Training	Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with the requirements of Section 2054.5192 of the Texas Government Code relating to cybersecurity training and required verification of completion of the training program.	<p>Per Texas Government Code Section 2054.5192 a contractor/grantee, including contractor's/grantee's employees, officers, and subcontractors, who have access to a Texas Health and Human Services system/State computer system(s) or database(s) must complete a cybersecurity training program certified by the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) as selected by the agency.</p> <p>Contractor/Grantee must ensure that all its employees, officers, and subcontractors who have access to a Texas Health and Human Services system/State computer system(s) or database(s) complete the cybersecurity training found on DIR's Statewide Cybersecurity Training Awareness site. HHSC will require submission of a <u>Contractor Written Acknowledgement of Completion of Cybersecurity Training Program (PDF)</u> Form 3834 upon executing any Grant Agreement resulting from this RFA.</p>
11.		Our case management program is funded by another funder but we provide free case management to all clients and will do so in this grant for HB 13 clients. I would like to allocate a % of our case manager's salary/fringe to the grant as match. We currently use the FTEs methodology for our clinical director's salary/fringe match. Can you guide me regarding the recommended allocation methodology to use?	Match funding can come from cash (i.e., non-state and non-federal amounts spent on the grant), or in-kind (i.e., non-cash matching and that uses non-monetary resources to fulfill a portion of the required financial Match for a grant or funding opportunity). HHSC will accept a percentage allocation for budgeting purposes. However, the amount claimed as match must be proportionate to the amount of time spent providing services under the grant. Refer to Section 5.4, Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements, of the RFA.



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12.		Partner Organization- we have MOU’s with our local indigent health clinics and we refer the them and they to us. Does this qualify as a Partner Organization?	Yes, as long as the Partner Organization provides reportable behavioral health treatments and services in direct support of the Applicant’s Community Mental Health Grant project. Refer to “Partner Organization” definition in Section 1.2, Definition and Acronyms, of the RFA.
13.	2.6 Program Requirements, Collaboration pg. 14, Article II. Scope of Grant Project.	As a statewide eligible participant that can perform the eligible activities to an eligible population under this RFA (where there may be special consideration), we are confused by the program requirement that would require ██████ to obtain a letter of support from each LMHA or LBHA in each county where the organization provides services; and that written input will be considered by each before awarding a grant. Please explain the rationale behind this request in general and as it pertains to nonprofit/non LMHA/LBHA organizations. Is the intent and focus of this funding geared more toward awarding LMHAs or LBHAs over other qualified nonprofits?	A letter of support from applicable Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) and Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) is required pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 531.0991(f) . All Applications will be screened and evaluated according to Article IX, Application Screening and Evaluation, of the RFA.
14.		In light of the short turn around does HHSC have a required letter of support template with the necessary information that you will be looking for and contact information for each LMHA or LBHA?	HHSC will not provide letter of support template. Letters of support will generally contain an opening statement that identifies the project for which funds are being sought, a statement outlining the relationship between the organization and Applicant, and a closing statement indicating support for Applicant’s proposal. Resources, and examples are readily available via web search. Applicants can find Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) and Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) contact information at the following webpage: https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-substance-use-resources/find-your-local-mental-health-or-behavioral-health-authority



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15.	5.3 Grant Funding Prohibitions, paragraph 1, and services, activities, or cost: #2 pg. 21, Article I. Executive Summary, Definitions, and Statutory Authority and Article V. Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information	Are Medicaid dollars that are not to be replaced or supplanted considered a Match for this grant?	HHSC considers Medicaid a federal funding source, and cash match must come from non-State and non-federal sources. Refer to Section 5.4(2)(5), Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements, of the RFA.
16.	1.1 Executive Summary Chart and 5.4 Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements, C. pg. 4 and 23 respectively, Article V. Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information	<p>In light of the 100% match required for larger organizations that serve counties with a population over 250,000 is there an award range for larger target populations served and is there an approximate number or range for that target population?</p> <p>By the same token is there an award range or minimum for counties with less than a 100K population, and a number or range to be served?</p> <p>Please provide the same information for counties with populations between 100K and 250K.</p> <p>Based on the match requirement is there more of a focus or intent on awarding smaller more rural areas?</p>	<p>HHSC does not have an established minimum or maximum award amount. Refer to Section 2.4, Eligible Service Areas, of the RFA which states "(t)o the extent possible, HHSC will reserve 50 percent of total awarded funds for Applicants serving individuals in counties with a population of less than 250,000. Applicants should refer to the 2020 United States Census for county population data, visit www.census.gov for more information."</p>
17.		Would it be allowable for an LMHA applicant to include in a grant proposal a request for funding to create a patient portal? The rationale is that a patient portal would help individuals that we serve with better access to care and continuity of care.	All proposed costs must be necessary, reasonable, allowable, and allocable in accordance with the Grant Agreement and consistent with the Grant Project Budget approved by HHSC. Refer to Sections 2.10, Financial Status Reports (FSRs) and 5.5, Payment Method, of the RFA.



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18.		Does the NCA require that an LMHA submitting multiple CMHG applications to lump them into one application?	Refer to Section 3.2, Application Screening Requirements, of the RFA which states in its first paragraph that "(e)ach Applicant may only submit one (1) Grant Application per Project Design as outlined in Section 2.5, Eligible Activities. Separate Applications must be submitted if Applicant has more than one Project Design."
19.		In the pursuit of funding under the CMHG grant as noted above, I have the following question: Can you please share HHSC's formal definition of "complex medical conditions"?	In general, a complex medical condition is one that involves multiple body systems, is often chronic in nature, and impacts multiple life domains.
20.		██████ operates 17 centers in 6 states, including Texas. Our corporate and home office is located in ██████ but, we are approved to operate in Texas and would be seeking support for a program at our Texas center. Are we still eligible to apply for this funding?	To be considered for grant award, Applicants must meet all requirements set forth in Section 3.3 (Grant Award Eligibility) of the RFA. See also Section 9.2, Initial Compliance Screening of Applications, of the RFA.



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21.	Pg13.	<p>Evidence-based clinical and non-clinical service provision within a continuum of care for mental health treatment, prevention, early intervention, and/or recovery services. Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Client education and skills development; b. Screening and assessment; c. Case management; d. Integrated medical services, including medication management; e. Mental health rehabilitation; f. Psychotherapy; g. Nursing support services; h. Co-occurring treatment; and i. Peer Support Services. <p>1----- Could Early Intervention MH/IDD programs with BCBAs be considered?</p> <p>2-----Could IDD/MH Peer Support be considered as an eligible activity?</p>	<p>Both provided examples can be considered an eligible activity. Refer to Section 2.5, Eligible Activities, of the RFA.</p>



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22.	Article XIII, Paragraph 3, pg 47	<p>Exhibit or other attachment and section or paragraph number from the exhibit or other attachment: Form I Language, Topic, Section Heading Being Questioned: Article XIII, Paragraph 3. Exhibits and Forms to be Completed, Signed, and Submitted with Application "This Requested Budget Template is mandatory and must be submitted with the Application, in the original format (Excel), for the Application to be considered responsive. Applications received without the completed Requested Budget Template will be disqualified."</p> <p>Question: Form I must be signed, but it must also be submitted in the original Excel format. I could not find a page on the Excel file that could be signed. Should a separate PDF copy of the budget be uploaded with a signature field added?</p>	Form I (Requested Annual Budget Template) must be completed and submitted for the Application to be considered responsive. Form I does not require signature. Refer to Article XIII(3)(b), Form I: Requested Annual Budget Template (Excel), of the RFA.
23.	Section 5.3, paragraph 3, pg 21, Grant Funding Prohibitions	On November 16, 2023, there was a Broadcast Message No. 006.24 sent on behalf of the Office of Mental Health Coordination regarding a pre-solicitation notice for Construction Grant for Mental Health Facilities. Is this RFA separate from that notice? This RFA HHS0013925 specifically states that "Building construction, renovation, or facility improvements" are prohibited "unless approved by HHSC and directly related to the CMHG program's purpose." Does this mean that this RFA is separate from the pre-solicitation announcement of construction of mental health facilities?	Yes, RFA No. HHS0013925 is separate from the pre-solicitation notice for Construction Grant for Mental Health Facilities.
24.	Section 5.4, paragraphs 2 and 3 pg. 23, Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	To meet match requirements, do applicants have to use cash only, or can applicants use in-kind only or a combination of in-kind and cash?	Match funding can come from cash (<i>i.e.</i> , non-state and non-federal amounts spent on the grant), or in-kind (<i>i.e.</i> , non-cash matching that uses non-monetary resources to fulfill a portion of the required financial Match for a grant or funding opportunity) sources or any combination of the two. Refer to Section 5.4(2)(5), Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements, of the RFA.



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25.	Section 3.2, paragraph 1 pg. 18, Application Screening Requirements	The RFA states, "Separate Applications must be submitted if Applicant has more than one Project Design." If eligible organizations submit multiple applications for different Project Designs, is it possible that more than application may be approved and funded under this RFA? Or will the RFA only fund a maximum of one application per organization regardless of the number of applications they may submit?	Applicant is eligible to receive multiple awards if Applicant has more than one Project Design. Refer to Section 3.2, Application Screening Requirements, of the RFA which states in its first paragraph that "(e)ach Applicant may only submit one (1) Grant Application per Project Design as outlined in Section 2.5, Eligible Activities. Separate Applications must be submitted if Applicant has more than one Project Design."
26.	Section 2.5, paragraph A.1.d., pg. 13, Eligible Activities	For Integrated Medical Services, would primary healthcare medications be an allowable expense (e.g., medications for managing diabetes, hypertension, etc.)?	Yes, the provided example is an allowable expense.
27.	Section 2.6, paragraph D., pg. 14, Program Requirements	If we are an LBHA and are the Applicant, are we required to submit a letter of support from the head of our organization with our application?	No, a letter of support is not required from Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA).