



Opportunity for Funding

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy J. Plouck, Director

Promoting Wellness and Recovery

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Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Linkages

A significant percentage of individuals incarcerated in county, local and regional jails have diagnosable mental illness and addictions. Many of these individuals repeatedly shift between the criminal justice and behavioral health system and experience poor outcomes such as recidivism of criminal behavior and increased psychiatric symptoms.

The ability of jails to treat individuals with behavioral health disorders is limited. Problems exist with access to psychiatric services, counseling and other evidence-based treatments in many parts of the state. In addition, linkage to services following incarceration is frequently problematic. Research demonstrates that continuity of care markedly decreases both criminal recidivism and hospitalization for persons involved in the criminal justice system.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is seeking collaborative community proposals for pilot projects that would provide best practices in linking criminally involved people across systems with community-based behavioral health. The intent of linking behavioral health and criminal justice is to reduce state and local correction costs and reduce recidivism while promoting public safety and behavioral health treatment.

Proposal Guidelines:

- Proposals must target individuals with mental health and/or addictions involved in the criminal justice system.
- Proposals should emphasize collaboration between behavioral health and criminal justice partners.
- Linking and leveraging existing resources to more comprehensively serve the populations' needs is desirable.
- Proposals should not exceed \$150,000.
- Applicants must be local mental health, alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services boards, or alcohol and drug addiction boards (MH/ADAMH/ADAS).
- Submission should include a cover page with contact information; a proposal — no longer than two pages — addressing: project specifics, collaborative membership, sustainability plan, proposed outcomes; a budget form and budget narrative.

Proposal Submission Process:

All proposals must be submitted via email to Chris Nicastro at christopher.nicastro@mha.ohio.gov.

Proposal Deadline — Sept. 3, 2013