



Department of
Mental Health

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

June 17, 2011

Memorandum To: Mental Health Stakeholders
From: Tracy J. Plouck, Director
Subject: FY 12 Block Grant Allocations

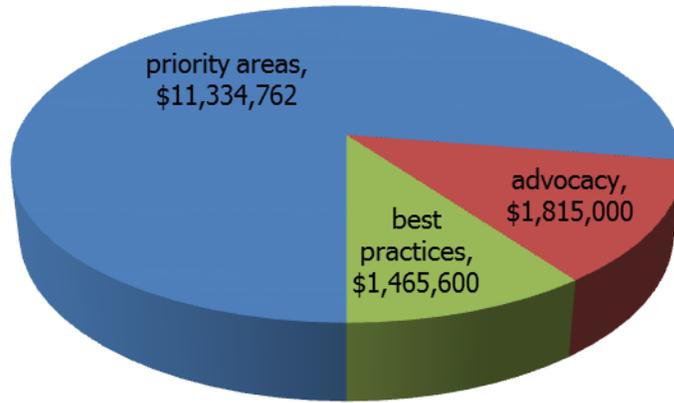
Federal Block Grant funding enables our department to place emphasis on priority areas and innovative practices in order to strengthen the overall provision of mental health services in Ohio. Development of this year's block grant recommendations has taken more time than originally anticipated; however, I am pleased to share the distribution framework in this memo. ODMH staff will be following up with specific grantees in the coming days in order to clearly articulate the specific deliverables expected in return for block grant funding.

Overall Approach to Allocations

During the FY 12/13 budget development process the department has focused on four priority areas: safety net services & crisis intervention; housing; services for children with serious emotional disorders; and support for consumers involved with justice system, including re-entry to the community. When approaching the block grant allocation strategy, an amount was set aside specifically for each of these four purposes. Over the next weeks we will be solidifying details which are outlined generally later in this memo. Additionally, as you may be aware, approximately half of Ohio's block grant historically has been distributed to the fifty local ADAMH/CMH boards on a modified per capita basis. We will continue that general approach using a methodology that recognizes population, poverty and prevalence factors, but with the requirement that the block grant resources be used to support one or more of the four priority areas in local communities. Taken together, funding for these priorities comprises approximately 78% of the FY 12 block grant allocation.

Additionally, while focus on priority areas is important, the block grant historically has been used to support advocacy efforts and best practices in the mental health delivery system. These purposes are maintained and together constitute approximately 22% of the total FY 12 allocation.

FY 12 Block Grant Uses



Many individuals and groups provided suggestions for block grant funding; while there are many worthy initiatives, there are limited resources to allocate. The department's strategy took into account SAMHSA's shifting focus, which will require states to emphasize more direct services with block grant resources in future years. We also examined the potential statewide impact of proposed projects as well as the proven success (i.e., deliverables) of projects that have been funded in past years. Specific acknowledgement was made to the recommendations of the Planning Council, the external group that provides consultation to the department on block grant issues. At the end of the day, however, as Director of the department I am accountable for all decisions reached regarding FY 12 allocations.

Priority Areas - \$11.3 million, 78% of Block Grant funding

- Housing – The department will fund scholarships for community housing teams to attend trainings & learn successful strategies for creating and sustaining permanent supportive housing. Recognizing that housing is a component of community-based living, the department will pilot approaches to connect individuals with services in order to support their success in a community setting. Training may be used to support this. Additionally, the department will seek opportunities to streamline requirements and leverage resources in order to better invest in preservation opportunities for existing housing stock.
- Crisis & Safety Net – DMH will administer a new program to provide mini capacity grants for non-Medicaid community services for individuals who are, based on their specific circumstances, experiencing access challenges in the community. Additionally, the department will make available limited psychiatry consultation hours (in person or via telemedicine) for individuals who have re-

entered the community from state hospitals and who would benefit from a consultation with a clinician from their inpatient stay.

- Children with Serious Emotional Disorders – The Center for Innovative Practices will be funded at 90% of its FY 11 level and provide training and technical support to providers in anticipation of Intensive Home Based Treatment being approved as a Medicaid-reimbursable service in FY 13. Focus will be on multiple IHBT models rather than a single model. Block grant funding will also support the Red Flags prevention program, evaluation of early childhood mental health consultation services and financial support for the provision of mental health services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Forensic – DMH will administer a new program to provide mini capacity grants for non-Medicaid community services to individuals who are, based on their specific circumstances, experiencing access challenges in the community. Additionally, we will use block grant funding to continue our commitment to the statewide forensics base allocation to communities and also support evaluation/direct service of the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice project with the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Finally, funding to support Crisis Intervention Teams for law enforcement is continued.

As noted earlier in this memorandum, approximately half of the allocation (\$7.5 million) will be disbursed to local boards in order to support one or more of the four priorities.

Advocacy – \$1.8 million, 12% of Block Grant funding

Six advocacy organizations will receive continued funding via the FY 12 block grant allocation; however, in exchange for these resources a funding agreement with specific deliverables will be required. In addition, all six groups will be required to submit a sustainability plan by October 1, 2011 that outlines how the organization would adapt to 75% of the FY 12 funding levels in FY 13. The goal over time is to devote more block grant resources to services, and a gradual redirection will be a responsible way to manage that transition.

As has been the case in previous years, the Block grant will support stipends and scholarships for consumers of mental health services to participate in the public policy development process. Funds will also be used to support the toll-free bridge line for individuals seeking services.

Best Practices – \$1.4 million, 10% of Block Grant Funding

The department has traditionally funded a number of Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOEs) and related networks via the block grant. This year, in an attempt to redirect more resources to the articulated priorities, funding for one CCOE was discontinued (Ohio Cluster Based Planning Alliance CCOE) and funding for one network (Network for School Success – Miami University) was also discontinued. Most CCOEs were scaled back to 90% of FY 11 levels. CCOEs were established as independent entities to promote best practices and have the ability to attract other funders through

business arrangements; therefore, it is possible that some or all of these entities can alter their business lines to expand to other non-DMH funded initiatives if they have not already done so.

In addition to CCOEs, the “best practices” category contains some new initiatives of note:

- Behavioral health/physical health integration innovation fund – will provide targeted mini-grants for technical assistance to support provider collaborative efforts to transform the delivery system
- Health information technology technical assistance fund – to support behavioral health providers obtain information and develop partnerships
- Evaluation resources
- Resources are identified to create a marker in the department’s information technology systems to monitor the use of evidence based practices. This will help to evaluate the implementation of evidence based practices and inform future policy decisions.

The Consumer Operated Service Employment partnership is funded at 90% of FY 11 levels.

Note that the All Ohio conference, a biennial event, is next scheduled for FY 13. As a result, there is no funding set aside in FY 12 but funding will be available next year for the department to co-sponsor this educational event.

A summary spreadsheet is attached. As stated earlier in this memo, recipient organizations will be contacted by DMH staff in the near term in order to discuss specific expectations related to funding.

Thank you for your ongoing support of mental health initiatives in Ohio.