



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director

March 17, 2020

>>> FY 2020 Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative - Application Period Extended Until April 3

Due to the high level of interest and volume of applications from Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs), the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is extending the deadline for the SFY 2020 Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative (BHWI) until **Friday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m.** CBHCs may continue to send their completed BHWI Request for Funding Forms, SFY 2020 Agreement and Assurances, and any questions to the BHWI@mha.ohio.gov email box. Click [HERE](#) for the SFY 2020 Funding Guidance and Request for Funding Form.

>>> Email Boxes for Housing, OTPs and BH Provider COVID-19-Related Questions

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, OhioMHAS is committed to keeping our stakeholders informed of the latest news and updates. We know you have questions and value your suggestions and feedback. To that end, the Department has established new email inboxes for COVID-19-related questions related to opiate treatment programs (OTPs), housing, and general behavioral health.

Please direct your inquiries to the following:

Housing Questions: COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov

OTP Questions: OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov

General BH questions: Covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov

>>> CMS Announces Expanded Telehealth Access for Medicare Recipients

The Trump Administration today announced expanded Medicare telehealth coverage that will enable beneficiaries to receive a wider range of healthcare services from their doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility. Beginning on March 6, 2020, Medicare—administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—will temporarily pay clinicians to provide telehealth services for beneficiaries residing across the entire country. Learn more [HERE](#).

>>> April 29 Crisis Academy Postponed

In compliance with Governor DeWine's executive order prohibiting gatherings of more than 100 people, OhioMHAS will be postponing the Crisis Academy scheduled for April 29. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

>>> Family Activity Suggestions

As we all adjust to our "new normal" there are so many things individuals and families can do during this time at home...you are only limited to your imagination! Explore the outdoors and more. Click [HERE](#) for a list of suggestions from the Ohio Department of Health.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov.

In the News

3.17.20 | *WKTN 95.3* [March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month](#)

3.16.20 | *Lorain Morning Journal* [MHARS Board shares resources for coronavirus](#)

3.16.20 | *WTOL-TV* [Amid coronavirus crisis, mental health just as important](#)

3.16.20 | *WTOV-TV* [Psychiatrists urge steps to stay calm](#)

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