



Application for the Telehealth Hub Grant

(MHA-18-MEDDIR-Telehealthhub-028)

Funding Period SFY 2018: July 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018

John R. Kasich, Governor

Tracy J. Plouck, Director

RFA PURPOSE

The 21st Century Cures Act was passed by Congress and signed into law in late 2016. It is designed to modernize health care through enhanced innovation, research and communication, leading to better patient outcomes. The Act also makes available to states new funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis. SAMHSA's State Targeted Response (STR) project funding will provide over \$970 million to states and territories over the next two years, beginning in fiscal year 2017. Ohio will receive over \$26 million dollars in FY 2017 and is eligible for additional funding in FY 2018.

Ohio's Opioid STR project goals focus on building a community system of care (prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery support) that emphasizes service integration between physical health care, emergency health care, behavioral health care, criminal justice, and child welfare. Strategies and activities undertaken for this effort build upon Ohio's on-going efforts to address the opioid epidemic and are designed to reduce overdose deaths and enhance the ability of individuals with opioid use disorder to receive treatment using evidence-based approaches. This focus represents a high-impact opportunity to strengthen Ohio's comprehensive response to the state's opioid issues.

OhioMHAS seeks applications to provide telehealth services for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD). OhioMHAS intends to fund four applicants to establish telemedicine hubs that provide medication assisted treatment (MAT) services to individuals living in rural Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties (those counties identified as having the highest overdose counts rates, and fentanyl deaths – see Attachment 3). The grant will provide funding for a variety of operations including developing formal business contracts and providing transportation services.

Telehealth Hub Scope of Work

Telehealth Services

Awardees will establish telehealth hubs that link with behavioral health organizations located in rural Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Telehealth services must be provided to patients with OUD, and specific services must include MAT induction and maintenance. Any FDA-approved form of MAT may be used in the treatment of patients with OUD (i.e., methadone, buprenorphine products including buprenorphine/naloxone combination formulations and buprenorphine monoprodut formulations, naltrexone products including extended-release and oral formulations, or implantable buprenorphine). Other treatment services may be provided by the telehealth provider if they are not already provided in the community or if there is a wait list among community behavioral health organizations.

Each awardee must establish at least five business contracts with behavioral health providers located in rural Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties to provide telehealth services. Within three months of grant award, awardees must serve at least 30 patients per month at each contracted behavioral health organization.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

As authorized in Ohio Revised Code Section 5119.61, the Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will collect information and data from AWARDEES. This information and data are outlined in the Reporting Requirements, which will be distributed with all the Notice of Awards. These Reporting Requirements will be available on the OhioMHAS website. Reporting requirements, such as

expenditure reports and quarterly program summary reports, will be reviewed by OhioMHAS staff. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may be considered a breach of the funding award and shall result in further action by OhioMHAS.

Additional Data Collection

Other monthly data required to be reported includes: ▪ Number of persons served by month; ▪ Type of services received by patient; ▪ Type and dose of MAT received by patient; and ▪ Demographic data including patient's race, ethnicity, sex, and pregnancy status.

Performance Assessment

The awardee is expected to participate in a performance assessment as needed with OhioMHAS staff.

PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Eligible Applicants

Applications will be accepted from entities that have established telemedicine services or have the ability to establish telemedicine services. All applicants must be able to currently accept Medicaid as a form of payment for services.

Permissible Use of Funds:

Costs may be related to the development of the telehealth hub including, forming formal business contracts between awardees and behavioral health facilities, purchasing telehealth equipment, and providing transportation services for patients not otherwise covered by Medicaid, Medicare or third-party insurance. Telehealth treatment services are expected to be billed through existing telehealth codes through Medicaid or third-party insurance companies. However, funds may be used to pay for telehealth treatment services if the patient is not eligible for Medicaid and does not have third-party insurance.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Application page limit is eight, single-spaced pages in 12 point Times New Roman font. This page limit does NOT include the face sheet, letters of intent or memoranda of understanding with potential behavioral health organization partners, the budget narrative or budget expenditure form (Appendices 1 and 2). Applications must include the following:

A. Scope of Work

1. Face sheet (Attachment 2)
2. Abstract - Summary of how all telehealth hub services will be developed and implemented that includes goal(s), objectives, targeted behavioral health organization partners, and total amount of funding requested. (300 words or less)
3. Project Description - Provide a description of the proposed project that includes the following:
 - a. Demonstration that applicant meets the minimum requirements to apply for the grant
 - b. Plan for developing telehealth hubs (e.g., recruiting partner organizations, developing telehealth policies and procedures)
 - c. Plan for implementing telehealth hubs (e.g., coordinating delivery of services between hub and partner agency, coordinating transportation between the hub and partner agency, billing

Medicaid and third-party insurance). Submissions including letters of intent or memoranda of understanding with potential partner organizations will be given greater weight.

- d. Types of MAT that will be offered by the telehealth hub – multiple types preferred
- e. Plan to sustain the telehealth hub after discontinuation of the grant
- f. Plan for coordination of collection and reporting of data
- g. Budget Expenditure Form (Appendix 1) and Budget Narrative (Appendix 2) documenting implementation period funds. Applications must include a budget and budget narrative that identifies all costs to complete the project as described in the application, as well as how OhioMHAS funds, and other resources will be used.

B. RFP Questions and Updates

- 1. The Request for Application, accompanying documents and all questions and answers will be posted on the OhioMHAS website at: <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=725>
- 2. All questions must be submitted electronically no later than **Thursday August 17th 2017 by 5:30PM** to OhioMHAS at: CURESTREATMENT@mha.ohio.gov
- 3. No questions will be answered after the deadline. You may **NOT** contact any OhioMHAS staff member directly with questions regarding this RFP. Contacting staff directly with questions could result in disqualification of an application.
- 4. Responses to all frequently asked questions (FAQ) will be posted to the OhioMHAS website at <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=725> and will be updated frequently.

C. Application Submission

- 1. All applications must be submitted electronically to: CURESTREATMENT@mha.ohio.gov by **Thursday, August 24th, 2017 by 5:30PM EDT.**
- 2. No faxed, mailed or hand carried applications will be accepted.

D. Award

- 1. Awards are expected to be announced in August for project implementation to begin no later than September 1, 2017. The maximum award amount is \$72,000 per awardee. Awardees may not use more than \$10,000 of those funds for purchase of technology and no more than \$12,000 for transportation services.
- 2. All state fiscal year 2018 funds should be obligated by April 30, 2018. No cost extensions are not permissible. Funds not used by the end of the state fiscal year will be returned to the department.

Review Criterion	Points Possible
Scope of Work	
Abstract: Summary of how all telehealth hub services will be developed and implemented that includes goal(s), objectives, targeted behavioral health organization partners, and total amount of funding requested (300 words or less)	5

Project description components:		
a. Demonstration that applicant meets the minimum requirements to apply for the grant		10
b. Reasonable plan for developing telehealth hubs (e.g., recruiting partner organizations, developing telehealth policies and procedures). Submissions including letters of intent or memoranda of understanding with potential partner organizations will be given greater weight.		40
c. Reasonable plan for implementing telehealth hubs (e.g., coordinating delivery of services between hub and partner agency, coordinating transportation between the hub and partner agency, billing Medicaid and third-party insurance)		
d. Number of MAT types that will be offered by the telehealth hub (More types means higher scores)		15
e. Reasonable plan to sustain the telehealth hub after discontinuation of the grant		10
f. Reasonable plan for coordination of collection and reporting of data, including submitting monthly reports to OhioMHAS		10
Technical Score		90
Budget: Program cost is reasonable and realistic		20
Total Score		110
Rating	Explanation	
0	Is Not Addressed. Application does not comply with the requirement and/or does not address expectations.	
1-2	Weak. Application does not substantially meet the requirement and/or does not substantially meet expectations.	
3-4	Meets. Application meets the requirement, and meets expectations.	
5	Exceeds. Application exceeds the requirement and exceeds expectations.	

Conditions of Award

- Awardee will work with OhioMHAS and other stakeholders on all aspects of the 21st Century CURES project throughout the duration of this project.
- Awardee will attend required training, technical assistance and/or meetings as per SAMHSA and/or OhioMHAS request including monthly status meetings with the project director.
- As authorized in Ohio Revised Code Section 5119.61, OhioMHAS will collect information and data from awardee. Awardee will provide required information and data electronically, through online reporting systems. All information and data will be reviewed by project staff. Failure to comply with reporting requirements shall result in further action by OhioMHAS, which may include withholding of funds.
- The Department reserves the right to make no award, make an award for a lesser amount, make an alternative award for the specified project or make an award for a shorter duration. The Department reserves the right to ask clarifying questions, issue conditional awards, and negotiate a best and final application with one or more applicants(s). The Department reserves the right to waive errors and omissions that do not materially affect the application. Errors and omissions may result in lower evaluation scores or rejection of the application.
- Awardee will be solely responsible for reporting, withholding, and paying all employment related taxes, payments, and withholdings for his/her self and any personnel, including but not limited to: Federal, State, and local income taxes, social security, unemployment or disability deductions, withholdings, and payments.
- Awardee must execute OhioMHAS Agreement and Assurances upon notice of award. (For reference, a copy of the Agreement and Assurances can be found in Attachment 1).

- The Department reserves the right to change the conditions of the grant or discontinue the grant if money is not allocated to the states as expected or if the federal government changes the conditions of the federal grant, or if the awardees performance is not adequate.

**Deadline for submission of all applications is Thursday, August 24th, 2017 by
5:30PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time to:
CURESTREATMENT@mha.ohio.gov**