

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
STATE MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The **District of Columbia** Department of Behavioral Health (“DBH”) and the **State Mental Health Planning Council** is seeking projects for funding consideration under the FY 2014 - FY 2015 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CFDA No. 93.958). The projects should reflect the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) focus on behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder), primary health, and the SAMHSA eight (8) strategic initiatives. These initiatives include: 1) Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness; 2) Trauma and Justice; 3) Military Families; 4) Recovery Support; 5) Health Reform; 6) Health Information Technology; 7) Data, Outcomes and Quality; and 8) Public Awareness and Support. The Planning Council recommends reviewing these initiatives on the SAMHSA website (<http://www.samhsa.gov/>). Additionally, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) prevention model identifies three (3) categories that are directed at whole populations and subsets of populations as universal, selective, and indicated. Applicants should be familiar with each prevention strategy.

Restrictions on the Use of Mental Health Block Grant Funds

The Public Health Service Act provides specific restrictions regarding the use of Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funding. The funds **may not** be used for any of the following purposes:

- To provide inpatient hospital services;
- To make cash payments to intended recipients of health services;
- To purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) and building or other facility, or purchase major medical equipment;
- To satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-Federal funds as a condition for the receipt of Federal funds; and
- To provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or nonprofit private entity. (This prohibits use of MHBG funds to award grants/financial assistance to for-profit organizations but does not prohibit States from entering into a contractual agreement with for-profit organizations).

Annual Audit

If the grantee receives federal grant awards in the total sum of \$500,000 or greater in a year, an annual audit, in accordance with the standards set forth in OMB Circular A-133, of the financial condition and accounts of the program performed by an independent certified public accountant (CPA) who is not a member of the governing body or an employee of the program is required and must be submitted to the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Agency Fiscal Officer.

Who Can Apply?

Projects must be from District-based, public or nonprofit private entities.

The projects funded under this initiative must be:

- Innovative in nature;
- For adults with serious mental illness (SMI), incorporate elements of the recovery model, such as wellness and crisis planning, strong support system, self-advocacy;
- For children/youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED), incorporate resiliency principles related to activities, school, social interactions, and development of strengths; and
- Projects may also include adults, parents, and children/youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

Projects will be funded ranging from \$5,000- \$20,000 for each year of a 2-year period (August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015; and August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016). Project proposals for only 1-year, at a maximum of \$20,000, may also be funded.

Only 5% of the total project budget can be spent on administrative costs.

Criteria used to determine which projects are approved include but are not limited to: justification of need for grant funds; soundness of proposed service delivery plan; measurable goals and outcomes; adequacy and reasonableness of proposed resources required; and demonstrated capacity managing the proposed project.

Applicants are also encouraged to propose projects that utilize best or promising practices and/or evidence-based practices. Consumer focused, consumer-run, and family member programs (that serve family members of SMI adults or SED children/youth) can also submit projects.

How to Apply?

The project Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Request for Applications (RFA) will be available February 28, 2014 at the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services (OPGS) in its Grants Information Data Systems (GIDS). They will also be posted on the District's Grants Clearinghouse of the OPGS website and published in the weekly *Funding Alert* at opgs.dc.gov. Hard copies are available for pick-up at DBH from Lynne Smith at 64 New York Avenue, N.E., Second Floor, Washington, DC 20002.

Any questions regarding the Request for Applications must be submitted in writing to Suzanne Fenzel (Suzanne.fenzel@dc.gov), and/or Dr. Juanita Reaves (juanita.reaves@dc.gov).

All project proposals must be submitted by March 28, 2014 via email to: Lynne Smith at lynne.smith@dc.gov ; and Dr. Juanita Reaves at juanita.reaves@dc.gov .

All approved projects are contingent upon receipt and availability of funding.