

Mental Health Planning Council Orientation

2024.01.17

Block Grant History

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the Mental Health Block Grant for all 50 states.
- The Mental Health Block Grant was created in 1981.
- It is a Federal requirement to have a Planning Council.
- Iowa now submits a joint Mental Health and Substance Use Block grant application to SAMHSA.

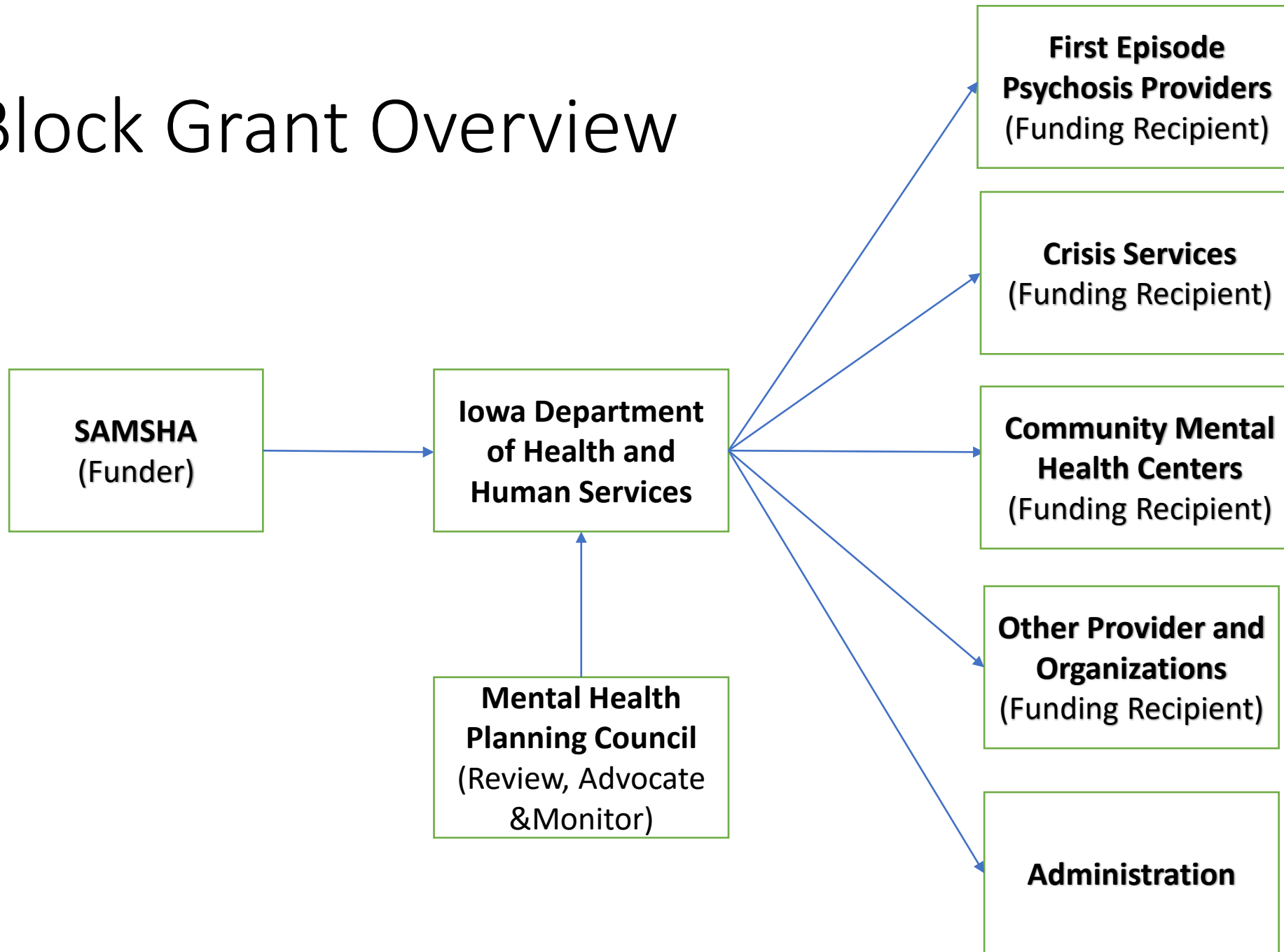
Block Grant Purpose

- Fund priority treatment and support services for individuals without insurance or for whom coverage is terminated for short periods of time.
- Fund those priority treatment and support services that demonstrate success in improving outcomes and/or supporting recovery that are not covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance.
- Fund primary prevention by providing universal, selective, and indicated prevention activities and services for persons not identified as needing treatment.
- Collect performance and outcome data to determine the ongoing effectiveness of behavioral health promotion, treatment, and recovery support services.

Block Grant Targets

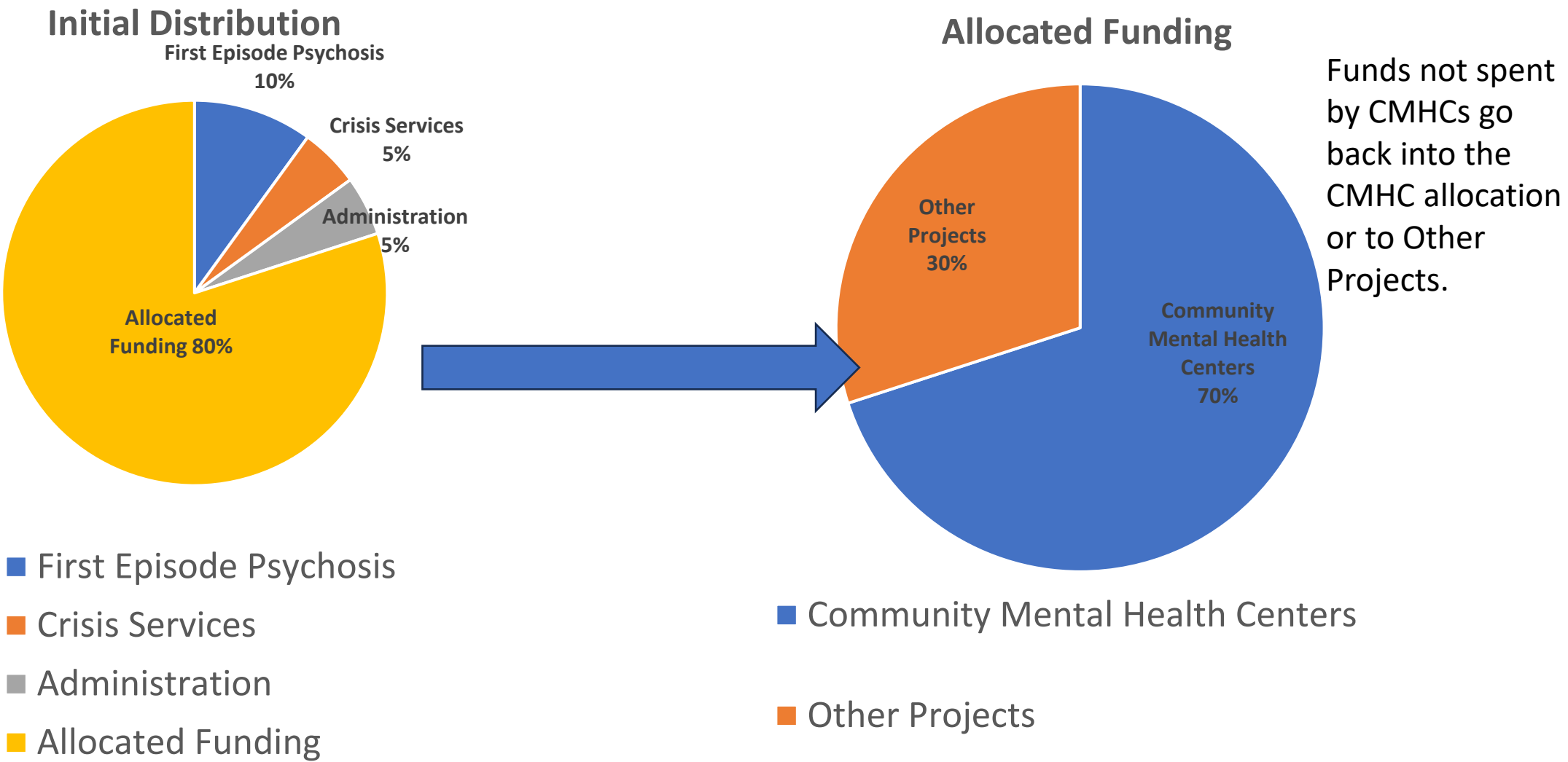
- Adults with serious mental illnesses
- Children with serious emotional disturbances.

Block Grant Overview



Funding Structure

- The State received \$7.8 million dollars from SAMHSA for Federal Fiscal Year 2023.
- The Mental Health Block Grant allocation to the State varies and is based on a federal formula that has ranged from \$5 - \$7 million the last few years



Council Purpose

- **Review** community mental health block grant plans and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services.
- **Advocate** for adults with serious mental illnesses, children with severe emotional disturbances, and others with mental health needs
- **Monitor**, review and evaluate all mental health services throughout the state.

Council Membership

The MHPC is composed of 33 members.

Representation on the Council is governed by federal requirements and the bylaws. Members must be Iowa residents.

The membership categories are:

- **7 members representing the principal State agencies** responsible for mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, social services, and the State Medicaid Agency
- **6 members representing public and private entities** concerned with the need, planning, operation, funding, and use of mental health services and related support services
- **6 adults in recovery who have lived experience with serious mental illness** (who are receiving or have received mental health services)
- **4 family members of adults with serious mental illness**
- **6 parents, guardians, or primary caretakers of children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance**
- **4 other individuals** with an interest in mental health issues

Conflict of Interest

- Annually, all Council members are expected to declare any financial or personal affiliations that could interfere with their effectiveness in representing the interests of individuals with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance on the Council, or on their effectiveness in representing the Council to the public.
- All Council members shall complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement, including information on any of the following situations:
 - (a) Holding a financial interest in a company, organization, or agency that provides services to individuals with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance.
 - (b) Receiving federal CMHS Block Grant funding as a contractor, sub-contractor, employee, provider, or in another capacity.
 - (c) Membership on other councils, boards, commissions, or public bodies that may have interests conflicting with those of the Council.

Resources

- Mental Health Block Grant

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/mental-health/provider-resources/training-grants/community-mental-health-services-block-grant>

- Mental Health Planning Council

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/about/advisory-groups/mental-health-planning-and-advisory-council>