

Mental Health Planning Council
Monitoring and Oversight Committee Recommendations for 2022-23 Block Grant Funding

- I. **Address Workforce Issues:** We need to have the workforce capacity to meet the Mental Health needs of lowans
Staff shortages affect deliverables for CMHC block grant funding
When requesting emergency services, it may take 15 min. for someone just to answer phone call
The wait for therapy appointments is several months. Then the no-show rate goes up due to scheduling so far out.
New programing, funding is put on hold due to lack of funding
Bed availability at MHI lacking due to inability to staff
Other shortages are also with Associates, Bachelor’s level staff and respite providers

How could block grant funding possibly assist?

1. Provide funding for a CMHC to supervise and train an intern (approx.\$15,000)
2. Retention bonuses for staff
3. Referral bonuses for staff
4. Partner with Universities to help train workers
5. Loan Repayment
6. PR Marketing effort to interest more students in the field

- II. **Provide needed services in older adult population**

Some areas experiencing higher rates of suicidal ideation and completion with older adults

Those receiving a terminal diagnosis

Stigma attached to getting treatment and taking meds prevents some from requesting help

Older adults that can no longer take care of their disabled adult sons and daughters. Offspring have never received services.

How could block grant funding possibly assist?

Another work force issue to serve this older population in more non-traditional ways (Time intensive work as they navigate services that they have never been introduced to previously)

- III. **Utilize the same Functional Assessment Tool for Systems of Care Contracts (Currently, at least three different tools are utilized)**

1. All SOC contracts would create a similar record with the client allowing transfer from one location to the next, a smoother transition

2. There is less redundancy and more efficiency
3. There would be consistency within programs, counties and regions
4. Programs could be evaluated based on the same parameters. Able to identify where services are working well and those that might need adjustments