

2026.01.21

# Block Grant Application

# Block Grant Application Basics

## Who

- ▶ Chandra Jennings, PhD, MCHES© Youth Behavioral Health and Mental Health Block Grant Planner
- ▶ Justin Edwards, IADC Substance Use Block Grant Manager

## What

- ▶ **2026-2027 Combined Block Grant Application**

## When

- ▶ Full application every 2 years, next application in 2027.
- ▶ Supplemental annual report.

## How

- ▶ Electronic submission to SAMHSA.

# Block Grant Application Components

- ▶ 1 - State Information, pp. 2- 33
- ▶ 2 - Planning Steps, pp. 34 - 48
- ▶ 3 - Planning Tables, pp. 49 - 72
- ▶ 4 - Environmental Factors and Plan, pp. 73 - 254

# 1 - State Information

- ▶ State Contact
- ▶ Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- ▶ List of Certifications
- ▶ Letter from Governor to delegate authority to HHS
- ▶ Use of supplemental funding from Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BCSA) HHS Director signature Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

## 2 - Planning Steps

### **Step 1: Assess the strengths and organizational capacity of the service system to address the specific populations**

- ▶ Describe the organization of the public mental health & substance use services system.
- ▶ Describe the role of state agencies.
- ▶ Describe how the system is organized at the regional, county, tribal and local levels.

## 2 - Planning Steps

**Step 2: Identify the unmet service needs and critical gaps within the current system, including state plans for addressing identified needs and gaps with MHBG/SUPTRS BG award(s)**

- ▶ Describe how the state conducts a statewide needs assessment.
- ▶ Describe the current unmet needs and gaps.
- ▶ Describe how the state plans to address unmet needs and gaps.

# 3 - Planning Activities

## **Priorities**

- ▶ #1 - Behavioral Health Crisis Services
- ▶ #2 - CCBHC Demonstration Implementation
- ▶ #3 - Treatment for Early Serious Mental Illness/First Episode Psychosis
- ▶ #4 - Increase public awareness of Iowa's Behavioral Health System
- ▶ #5 - Behavioral Health Workforce
- ▶ #6 - Recovery Support Services
- ▶ #7 - Primary Prevention
- ▶ #8 - Pregnant Women and Women with Dependent Children
- ▶ #9 – Tuberculosis
- ▶ #10 - Persons Who Inject Drugs

# 3 - Planning Activities

## **Planning Tables**

- ▶ Several budget related tables.
- ▶ Statistics on persons in need of and also receiving substance use treatment.

# 4 - Environmental Factors and Plan

- ▶ Access to Care, Integration, and Care Coordination
- ▶ Evidence-Based Practices for Early Interventions to Address Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI) – 10 percent set aside
- ▶ Person Centered Planning
- ▶ Primary Prevention
- ▶ Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- ▶ Crisis Services
- ▶ Recovery
- ▶ Children and Adolescents M/SUD
- ▶ Suicide Prevention
- ▶ Public Comment on the State Plan

# 4 - Environmental Factors and Plan

- ▶ Includes the 2025-2027 Behavioral Health Service System Statewide Plan pp. 92 - 159

# 4 - Environmental Factors and Plan

## **Historical I-PAC specific information within the application**

- ▶ Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council (I-PAC)  
Combined Block Grant Application Committee
- ▶ Notes from committee meetings.
- ▶ Bylaws
- ▶ Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
- ▶ I-PAC Meeting Minutes
- ▶ Advisory Council Members

# 4 - Environmental Factors and Plan

## **I-PAC Recommendations on Block Grant Application**

- ▶ Expansion of peer support services through peer-run organizations.
- ▶ Funding for Prevention and early intervention initiatives as an allowable activity.
- ▶ Implementation of crisis intervention and mental health education for first responders and law enforcement.
- ▶ Increased workforce development and capacity related to behavioral health promotion and prevention.
- ▶ Identification and expansion of Evidence Based Practices beyond those currently supported by the state.

# How to become more involved

- ▶ Join the Combined Block Grant Application Committee.
- ▶ Join the Monitoring and Oversight Committee.



# Questions