

Alderson, Patrick

From: George, Tricia (OMH) <Tricia.George@omh.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Giordano, Stephen; Hoffman, Cindy G.
Cc: Alderson, Patrick
Subject: Community Mental Health Grant

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good Afternoon,

This email is a follow-up from our conversation on November 15, 2021. As we discussed on our call, the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) may provide potential funding to support initiatives and/or programs in your county that divert adults diagnosed with a serious mental illness from jail. This one-time funding opportunity is available through a SAMSHA Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHS). CMHS funds should prioritize efforts to improve outcomes for individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. Please let me know as soon as possible if Albany Co is interested in submitting a proposal.

As a reminder, per **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)**, “criminal justice work is organized around a framework for intervention referred to as the Sequential Intercept Model. This model identifies five key points for “intercepting” individuals with behavioral health issues, linking them to services and preventing further penetration into the criminal justice system. This model builds on collaboration between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems; highlights where to intercept individuals as they move through the criminal justice system; identifies critical decision-makers who can authorize movement away from the justice system and into treatment; and delineates essential partnerships among mental health, substance abuse, law enforcement, pre-trial services, courts, judges, jails, community corrections, social services, and others”(<https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice/samhsa-efforts>).

Preference for funding will be given to programs and/or services that aim to divert adults with serious mental illness during the pre-arrest, pre-bookings, or post booking/pre-sentence intercept points. Counties should be mindful to include input from the county’s re-entry task force and criminal justice providers, Department of Mental Health, and Probation, to ensure county wide coordination of comprehensive diversion services across all sequential intercept points.

The NYS OMH Diversion Center will provide oversight for this CMHS funding. The Center’s mission is to support jurisdictions in the development, implementation, evaluation, and replication of initiatives to reduce arrest and incarceration of persons with serious mental illness (SMI). The Center will maintain regular contact with the designated program coordinator for the purposes of collecting quarterly data, surveying technical assistance needs, and measuring potential outcomes.

As stated on the call, this would be one time funding, the contract period would be for one year, and all funds would have to be spent within that one year period. (This COVID relief funding has to be spent no later than March 14, 2023) Therefore due to these time constraints, we are asking that proposals be sent by **December 5, 2021**. Proposals should include, but not be limited to a description of proposed project (including project goals and targeted intercept points), ideas for sustainability, list of agency partners, detailed budget, and the county’s assigned project coordinator(s). Funded programs will be required to submit quarterly data to the NYS OMH Diversion Center. Project budgets should not exceed \$175,000. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through email at tricia.george@omh.ny.gov.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Tricia

Tricia S. George

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Pronouns: she, her, hers

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