



## THE CENTER

at Sierra Health Foundation

### **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Telehealth Expansion Project Questions and Answers**

#### **ELIGIBILITY – WHO CAN APPLY?**

**Q: Are counties eligible to apply for the Telehealth Expansion project, or is the funding opportunity limited to providers?**

A: County-run mental health (MH) or substance use disorder (SUD) program sites are eligible to apply, including County Behavioral Health Departments.

**Q: As a county-run facility, our understanding was that we were eligible to apply, but we are not sure how to submit the application requirement for this part.**

A: For County entities, please upload a letter on the organization's letterhead stating who you are as a way to meet the requirement for the contract with the County Department of Behavioral Health.

**Q: Can one entity apply for both opportunities?**

A: Yes, if the entity qualifies for both opportunities, it can apply for both MH activities and SUD telehealth activities. Submit a separate application for each opportunity.

**Q: If one entity has several sites that qualify, can all sites apply for the funding? Can we use one application for all sites?**

A: Please submit one application per site/funding opportunity.

**Q: Our agency has both substance use disorder and mental health outpatient programs, and each division has multiple County-funded programs. Does this mean we need a separate request for each County contracted program?**

A: Yes, submit separate applications per program or site. Additionally, submit separate applications for each funding opportunity, MH Telehealth and SUD Telehealth.

**Q: Would a facility license from the California Department of Public Health meet the licensing requirement?**

A: Yes, per the RFA, entities with a certification form from the State of California are eligible.

**Q: Are federally qualified health centers eligible for this grant as long as they meet the requirements?**

A: Eligible entities must be a nonprofit SUD and/or MH treatment provider licensed and/or certified by the State of California as of July 1, 2021, AND must have a current contract with the county Behavioral Health Department and currently serve 'safety net' clients. If you are a federally qualified nonprofit SUD/MH health provider, then you qualify to apply.

**Q: We have a subcontract through another agency that holds the master contract with the county to provide mental health services to Ryan White clients (low-income and living with HIV). Is this type of contract considered eligible?**

A: Yes, organizations with a subcontract that are working on behalf of the county behavioral health department would be eligible. Please upload both contracts (front/signature pages as a single PDF and state such in your narrative).

**Q: My organization provides mental health services under agreement with MyHealthLA on behalf of the LA County Department of Health Services. Is this agreement sufficient to ensure our eligibility for the award?**

A: Yes, organizations with a subcontract that are working on behalf of the county behavioral health department would be eligible. Please upload both contracts (front/signature pages as a single PDF and state such in your narrative)

**Q: We have one contract that goes through the County BH Department, but it's an AOD Regional Prevention contract – not a contract to provide BH services.**

A: Only entities that provide treatment for SUD or MH disorders are eligible.

**Q: To confirm, is eligibility restricted to nonprofit organizations? Are there any plans to allow smaller for-profit facilities to participate?**

A: This opportunity is only for nonprofit SUD and/or MH providers, per federal funding requirements.

**Q: Can individual contractors apply, or is this intended for counties to apply?**

A: Per the RFA, eligible entities must be a nonprofit SUD and/or MH provider licensed and/or certified by the State of California as of July 1, 2021, and must have a current contract with the County Behavioral Health Department, and must currently serve ‘safety net’ clients. If your organization has met these requirements, you are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

**Q: Are licensed or non-licensed recovery programs eligible to apply?**

A: No. Only treatment programs are eligible for this funding opportunity.

**Q: Are hospitals eligible for this funding opportunity?**

A: Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

**Q: Are non-county government agencies (i.e. city departments) eligible?**

A: Yes, if they are certified or licensed by the State of California, have a current contract with the County Behavioral Health Department, and currently serve ‘safety net’ clients .

**Q: Does each site need to have an individual contract with the County and an individual DHCS license? Or does a contract/license that applies to all physical locations offering mental health services make each of those sites eligible, even though it is technically one organization-wide/umbrella contract/license?**

A: Each individual site applying for this opportunity must hold an eligible SUD/MH license/certification. Each organization/site must demonstrate that they are able to provide services at that location under a County contract (either at the site level or legal entity level as contracted).

**Q: Does a contract with Partnership HealthPlan of California to provide SUD treatment services qualify? PHC has the contract with the County and the applicant organization has a contract with PHC – does this meet the county contract requirement?**

A: Yes, as PHP is acting on behalf of the counties for administration of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, and the provider would get a contract for PHP. The applying provider must submit their County-issued or DHCS-issued Medi-Cal certification.

**USE OF FUNDS – WHAT IS ALLOWABLE?**

**Q: As part of our overall funding request, can we ask for part of the funding to be used to purchase tablet computers for use by our clients? (The clients wouldn’t own them, but we would make them available for use by clients so that they can access the tele-health network.)**

A: No. Per federal requirements, telehealth equipment is only for use by providers and not clients (under any circumstances). Refer to the RFA for allowable activities and expenses.

**Q: Would we be allowed to purchase telehealth equipment to check out to client for services? We would establish protocols to ensure equipment is monitored, tracked, returned and used appropriately.**

A: No. Per federal requirements, telehealth equipment is only for use by providers and not clients (under any circumstances). Refer to the RFA for allowable activities and expenses.

**Q: Can this funding be used to cover additional front office support to assist in the increased administrative workload in coordinating telehealth appointments?**

A: The funding may only be allocated for telehealth infrastructure.

**Q: Can we add Administration for the grant in the budget and for what %? It is usually 10-15%.**

A: No, funding can only be used for provider telehealth development, enhancement and/or expansion for SUD or MH telehealth activities, depending on the funding opportunity applied for. This opportunity is solely for telehealth infrastructure.

**Q: Are IT costs and installation fees an allowable cost?**

A: Costs to get telehealth services up and running are allowable. Please include significant details in the budget justification and break down all costs associated with each line item.

**Q: Will the grant pay for a small portion of IT programmer salaried staff time?**

A: While funding is meant only for telehealth infrastructure/equipment, we are allowing organizations to apply those funds to IT support, installation and fees to support the set-up of the telehealth system. Please include significant details in the budget justification and break down all costs associated with each line item.

**Q: Will the grant pay for a signal booster (to increase the Internet/WiFi signal at the rear of our clinic which has cement walls)?**

A: Yes, items to get telehealth up and running are an allowable cost. In the budget justification, please be sure to provide details about what items/equipment will be purchased and for what purpose.

**Q: Under the category of telehealth infrastructure, will the grant pay for clear mobile acrylic guards to provide separation and sound barriers for providers providing telehealth care? The guards allow for maximum functionality in our clinic setting while also allowing for emergency egress.**

A: Yes, this would be an allowable expense under telehealth infrastructure/equipment. In the budget justification, please be sure to provide details about what items/equipment will be purchased and for what purpose.

**Q: Are we limited to using the funds only for the mental health treatment programs described that make us eligible to access these funds, or can we use the funds to equip prevention and early intervention programs?**

A: No, funding can only be used for telehealth development, enhancement and/or expansion for SUD or MH treatment providers.

**Q: Is it allowable for an organization to create mobile tele-therapy stations for use by clients if they are owned and managed by the organization on site and with all devices used under the supervision of staff?**

A: No. This funding opportunity cannot be used to provide, or provide use of, telehealth equipment for clients in any way.

## **OTHER QUESTIONS**

**Q: Do we need to demonstrate, or would it be advantageous for us to demonstrate, other available funding (match) to be used for the project? In other words, is a match required? And, if so, how much/what %?**

A: There is no match required for this funding opportunity.

**Q: Please provide the definition that you are using for “safety net clients”?**

A: For the purposes of this RFA, we are defining “safety net” as providers serving underinsured and uninsured behavioral health patients.

**Q: The County Department of Behavioral Health would like to inform our providers of the grant funds and were wondering if any providers apply and receive grant funds, would DHCS be able to inform us (the County) of which providers received grant funds and how much was awarded?**

A: The Center will notify awardees if they have been selected for this grant, along with the total amount allocated. It is the responsibility of awardees to notify any other organizations, as required or necessary.

**Q: How much total funding is available for the entire RFA?**

A: This funding opportunity is made available through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant and Community Mental Health Services Block Grants. DHCS anticipates approximately \$39 million to be allocated for this funding opportunity.

**Q: Must applicants submit their entire County Behavioral Health Contract?**

A: Each applicant must provide proof of a current County contract to provide services. Please do not upload the entire contract. Instead, you may upload only the organizational identifying page(s), those that demonstrate contract dates, and signature page(s) that demonstrate such a contract is in place.

**Q: Regarding Provider focused telehealth training, 1) Do we need to have a chosen training vendor at the time of application or is an estimated dollar amount of the training sufficient, and 2) Do you need any information at the time of application about the training program, or can this be provided at reporting time?**

A: You may estimate the dollar amount anticipated for provider telehealth training and finalize if the contract is awarded. Please provide details in the budget justification that will explain this, but also the type of training that will be provided.

**Q: Why are a State license and County contract required?**

A: Based on funding restrictions, this opportunity is only available for licensed SUD/MH treatment providers. A license/certification from the State of California (whether DHCS, CDPH, etc.) is required. A County contract for SUD/MH services must be in place to demonstrate that awarded organizations provide services that are consistent with the requirements and need within each county and local government.