

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) COVID-19 RESPONSE ROUND 2

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS  
MARCH 2021



**T H E C E N T E R**  
*at Sierra Health Foundation*

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization bringing people, ideas and infrastructure together to create a collective impact that reduces health disparities and improves community health for the underserved living in California.

For information about The Center, visit [www.shfcenter.org](http://www.shfcenter.org).

## BACKGROUND

Currently, Los Angeles and Riverside counties are two of the highest impacted counties with regard to confirmed cases of COVID-19 in California. These counties also have a high burden of mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment needs and a large percentage of California's health care workforce. It is crucial to provide funding to support behavioral health providers in these counties over the coming months. Without intervention, the disruption presented by COVID-19 will pose risks to treatment for individuals with SUD and MH disorders.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has received a \$2.5 million SAMHSA grant to support COVID-19 response activities specifically for organizations providing direct MH and/or SUD treatment services. Given the level of funding available, as well as the context above, the focus of these funds will be Los Angeles and Riverside counties.

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation will assist DHCS with the administration of the funds to organizations to provide direct treatment and recovery support services, with a specific focus on telehealth. Funding must be utilized to address the needs of individuals with SUD and/or MH disorders impacted by the COVID-19 emergency, including SUD, youth and patients with serious emotional disturbances (SED), and health care professionals and others with MH disorders less severe than serious mental illness (SMI).

There are two individual funding opportunities available: 1) SUD COVID-19 Services and 2) Mental Health COVID-19 Services. Of the \$2.5 million, \$1.75 million will be allocated to fund SUD COVID-19 Services, and \$750,000 will be allocated to fund Mental Health COVID-19 Services.

## ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Eligible organizations are those that provide direct treatment and recovery support services and must:

- Serve patients residing in **Los Angeles or Riverside** counties
- Be a MH and/or SUD provider licensed and/or certified by DHCS for at least two years as of February 16, 2021 (depending on funding opportunity applied for) – see below for eligible organizations
- Use funding for direct treatment services to support individuals impacted by COVID-19
- Use funding for under- and uninsured patients and practitioners

## ELIGIBLE DHCS LICENSES INCLUDE:

- Substance Use Disorder licenses
  - Drug Medi-Cal certification (for SUD services)
  - Driving Under the Influence
  - Narcotic Treatment Program
  - Adult Residential Treatment Facility
  - Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Treatment and Partial Hospitalization Services
  - Adolescent Residential Treatment Facility
  - Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospital
  - Freestanding Psychiatric and General Acute Hospital

- Mental Health licenses
  - Drug Medi-Cal certification (for mental health services)
  - Psychiatric Health Facility
  - Mental Health Rehabilitation Center
  - Crisis Stabilization Unit
  - Outpatient Clinic
  - Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program
  - Children’s Crisis Residential Program
  - Social Rehabilitation Program
  - Community Treatment Facility
  - Skilled Nursing Facility with Special Treatment

## **FUNDING AMOUNTS AND CONTRACT PERIOD**

For both funding opportunities, contracts will cover activities beginning June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022. Sites may request **up to \$100,000** under each funding opportunity. Sites are limited to submitting one application per funding opportunity if they meet the eligibility criteria (i.e., one application for Substance Use Disorder Services and one application for Mental Health Services).

Under each funding opportunity, at least 80% of the total requested funding amount must be used to provide direct treatment and recovery services (please see below for a description), and up to 20% of the total requested funding amount may be used to support other costs. Funding may be allocated to support personnel salaries for clinicians providing direct treatment, behavioral health medications and recovery services.

Other costs may only include:

- Data collection [including Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and up to \$30 non-cash incentive to individuals to participate in required data collection follow up]
- Personal Protective Equipment for use by staff only; not for use by clients
- Telehealth equipment and service costs for use by staff only; not for use by clients
- Marketing for direct services provided under this funding opportunity
- Indirect up to 10% of the total award amount

## **DIRECT TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES – ALLOWABLE SERVICES AND EXPENSES**

### **1) Substance Use Disorder COVID-19 Services**

Funding under this opportunity must use telehealth for direct service provision and evidence-based treatment, and should include service provision for one of the following:

- Outpatient treatment
- Intensive outpatient treatment
- Narcotic treatment program
- Residential treatment services

Recovery support services means: linkages to nutrition/food services (funds may not be used to actually purchase food/meals), individual support services (individual contact/check in by peer support personnel, faith-based groups, etc.), childcare, vocational services, educational services, linkages to housing services, and/or transportation services, all of which will improve access to and retention in recovery services. Contractors must ensure the ability to provide these services virtually where needed.

Providers must utilize third-party reimbursements and other revenue realized from the provision of services to the extent possible and use SAMHSA grant funds only to pay for services to individuals who are not covered by public or commercial health insurance programs, individuals for whom coverage has been formally determined to be unaffordable, or for services that are not sufficiently covered by an individual's health insurance plan. Providers must help facilitate the health insurance application and enrollment process for eligible uninsured clients.

## 2) Mental Health COVID-19 Services

Funding under this opportunity must be allocated as follows:

- **A minimum of two-thirds of funding requested for direct services (e.g., \$53,000 if funded at \$100,000)** must be used to support mental health care for all individuals or patients impacted by COVID-19 with mental health disorders less severe than SMI.
- **A minimum of one-third of funding requested for direct services (e.g., \$27,000 if funded at \$100,000)** must be allocated for **health care practitioners** impacted by COVID-19 with mental health disorders less severe than SMI requiring mental health care (this can include depression, PTSD, etc.)
  - This is for health care providers themselves
  - Must be for under- and uninsured individuals

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The online application is available on [The Center's portal](#) with completed applications **DUE by April 5, 2021 at 1 p.m. PT**. A webinar reviewing the opportunity and application process will take place on **March 16, 2021** at 11 a.m. Please register for the webinar on [The Center's web site](#). Applicants will be notified of funding selection in May 2021. The payment schedule will be as follows: 50% of total contract award upon execution of the contract, 50% of total contract award with submission of the progress report.

Organizations operating as a single legal entity that wish to apply for more than one site or for both funding opportunities must submit separate applications for each site/funding opportunity. *If you are submitting multiple applications: You will use the above link to initiate an application for each of the individual applications you want to create – this will create separate applications under your online account. You should be able to see the individual applications when you log into your account and look at in-progress applications. Once you have created the individual applications with the link above, **then** you would use the link in the automated e-mail received (after you click "save and finish later") to return to those applications. If you utilize the above link, it will create a new application each time instead of returning you to your in-progress applications.*

## TIPS FOR USING THE ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL:

- In the portal, for optimal functionality, use Internet Explorer as the browser when working on a PC and Safari as the browser when working on a Mac.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an \*).
- Submit the application via the online portal through this [link](#). New users of the portal will need to create an account as the first step in the application process. You will only use this link one time to initiate your application. After you have started working on your application, use the link below, or that you received via e-mail, to continue working on your saved application. If you are applying for multiple counties, sites, or both opportunities, you will use the above link to initiate each separate application.
- On the portal, you may click “Save & Finish Later”. You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application. You also may use this [link](#) to return to your in-progress application.
- Click “Save & Finish Later” any time you will not be working in your application for a few minutes.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents, before submitting. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the RFA components.

## APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS

See page 8 for an overview of application questions, requirements and attachments.

## FUNDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- CSAT **GPRA** Tool will be used to collect intake, six-month follow-up and discharge.
- Progress narrative and financial report – due by November 30, 2021.
- Final narrative and financial report – due by June 30, 2022.

**For questions, please reach out to [mataccesspoints@shfcenter.org](mailto:mataccesspoints@shfcenter.org).**

## Application Outline – SAMHSA COVID-19 Response

### **APPLICANT ORGANIZATION INFO**

Organization name

Address

County

Phone

URL (optional)

Director/CEO Contact Name

Director/CEO Contact Title

Director E-mail address

Director phone

Application Contact

Application Contact E-mail Address

Application Contact Phone

Applicant Organization Tax ID #

DUNS #, if applicable

SAM expiration date, if applicable

Congressional District of applicant organization's primary location

Congressional District(s) where organization's beneficiaries live

Organization Type [checklist]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narcotic Treatment Program/Medication Unit | <input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient treatment facility  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intensive outpatient treatment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential treatment facility |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health clinic           |

### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name (10 words maximum):

Brief Summary and Purpose of Project (300 words maximum):

TOTAL Amount Requested: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Up to \$100,000*

Start Date: June 1, 2021

End Date: Organizations may take up to 12 months to expend funds (up until May 31, 2022)

### **Opportunity Applying For**

Please indicate which opportunity you are applying under:

- SUD COVID-19 Services
- Mental Health COVID-19 Services

Geography - County-level

Please indicate which county you are applying under:

- Los Angeles County
- Riverside County

Number of Projected Clients

Please indicate the projected number of clients you intend to serve during the contract period:

Evidence-based Practices

Providers must use at least one of the following EBPs in their service provision. Providers may propose other EBPs; however, the EBP must be approved by DHCS. If utilizing contingency management, contingencies may be used to reward and incentivize treatment compliance with the maximum contingency value being \$15 per contingency. Each patient may not receive contingencies totaling more than \$75 per year of his/her treatment. If a provider wants to utilize other EBPs, please list the EBP in the category of 'Other'. Providers are encouraged to utilize SAMHSA's Evidenced-Based Practices Resource Center [www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center](http://www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center) if selecting the 'Other' category.

- Cognitive Therapy
- Contingency Management
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Motivational Interviewing
- Other [please specify]

Population to be served (classifications):

Please select all the populations served with this funding.

- Youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED)
- Adults with serious emotional disturbance (SED)
- Youth with mental health disorders less severe than SMI
- Adults with mental health disorders less severe than SMI
- Health Care Practitioners with mental health disorders less severe than SMI *[must be selected for Mental Health COVID-19 Services]*
- Youth with SUD
- Adults with SUD

Population to be served - Race/Ethnicity

For the racial and ethnic populations that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage of the total people of each population (Total must add up to 100.)

- African-American/Black: %
- Asian-American/API: %
- Latino/Hispanic: %
- Native American: %
- White: %
- Mixed race: %
- Other: % [please specify]

## **NARRATIVE QUESTIONS**

**Need.** Please briefly describe the need at your facility to increase direct treatment services to under- and uninsured individuals due to COVID-19. (300 word maximum)

**Direct Treatment Activities.** Please briefly describe the direct treatment activities supported by this funding that you plan to carry out during the contract period. If applying for the mental health COVID-19 services opportunity please include details on how you will reach healthcare professionals. (300 word maximum)

**Recovery Support Service Activities:** If providing SUD COVID-19 recovery support services, please briefly describe the recovery support service activities supported by this funding that you plan to carry out during the contract period. (300 word maximum)

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- The applicant organization agrees to HIPAA compliance.
- The applicant organization will adhere to all reporting requirements, including GPRA.
- The application organization will utilize, or establish, a referral mechanism for crisis mental health services.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Proposed Budget with 80% (direct services)/20% (other costs) and Budget breakdown (required in template, BOTH SHEETS)
- Proposed Budget Narrative (required)
- Applicant organization's W-9 (required)
- Copy of DHCS license and/or certification (required)