

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Statewide Consumer Network Grant Program
RFA # SM-09-014

1. How can I get a hard copy of the RFA mailed to me?

Call the SAMHSA Health Information Network at 1-877-726-4727 (1-877-SAMHSA7).

2. Can more than one organization in a state apply for this grant?

The RFA does not prohibit more than one organization in a state from applying.

3. Does my organization have to be an independent 501(c)3 not-for-profit entity?

Yes, applicant organizations must have been issued tax exempt status or similar documentation of such status from the United States Federal Government Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.). A copy of this documentation must be included in the application.

4. Does this grant opportunity apply only to states that don't already have SAMHSA-funded Statewide Consumer Network grantees?

The awards do not go to states, rather "Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities, tribal and urban Indian organizations, and community and faith-based organizations that meet the criteria for consumer-controlled organizations and that are not current recipients of a SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Network grant." The RFA does not prohibit organizations from applying for a Statewide Consumer Network grant in states that already have SAMHSA-funded grants under the current Statewide Consumer Network Grant program.

5. Can my organization have a fiscal agent to get this grant?

No, you cannot use a "pass-through" or "umbrella" organization. Your organization must be legally, administratively, and financially responsible for overseeing and managing the grant. For more information, see Appendix I, Certificate of Eligibility, in the RFA.

6. Can organizations that are currently funded through the SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Network grant program apply for this grant?

No, you cannot apply for this RFA if you are a grantee in the current Statewide Consumer Network grant program.

7. We currently have a SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Network grant which ends in 2010. Will there be new opportunities for funding when our grant period ends?

Statewide Consumer Network grants are authorized under Section 520A of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. Future funding of the Statewide Consumer Network grant program will depend on the availability of funds.

8. What if we are a youth-run or family network? Can we apply for this RFA?

According to the RFA, all applicant organizations must meet the criteria of consumer organizations. This means, among other criteria, your organization must (a) be controlled *and* managed by consumers (individuals 18 years of age or older who have received mental health services), (b) have a Board of Directors that is comprised of more than 50 percent consumers and that has been in operation for more than six months.

9. I am very interested in being considered as a reviewer for your Statewide Consumer Network Grant applications. Any information you could provide related to the opportunity to review these applications would be greatly appreciated.

SAMHSA is continuously seeking professionals to participate in the review process and our Web site provides information on the process. You should visit the SAMHSA Web site at <http://www.samhsa.gov>, click on "Grants" then select the hot link labeled "Grant Reviewer Opportunities". There you will find information on expectations of reviewers, requirements and access to an on-line application process.

10. I never realized that a big state could receive more than one SAMHSA consumer networking grant – is this true? Do you imagine the review panel would welcome another application from the same state? I feel that we should not apply if it is an unlikely award for SAMHSA to make, so I am hoping for some frank feedback about the thinking about two grants to one state.... And whether you think that the Consortium would be a good fit.

The awards for the Statewide Consumer Network grant do not go to states. Please note that "Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities, tribal and urban Indian organizations, and community and faith-based organizations that meet the criteria for consumer-controlled organizations and that are not current recipients of a SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Network

grant.” Currently-funded Statewide Consumer Network grantees are not eligible to apply for the new Statewide Consumer Network RFA. The new RFA does not prohibit organizations from applying for a Statewide Consumer Network grant in states that already have SAMHSA-funded grants under the current Statewide Consumer Network Grant program.

This is the first time that SAMHSA has been able to fund two Statewide Consumer Network grant programs in overlapping time periods. Unfortunately, SAMHSA can not advise you on the development of any potential application but you can review the list of required and allowable activities in the announcement on pages 5 and 6. You can access the RFA via the internet using the following link --
http://samhsa.gov/grants/2009/sm_09_014.aspx.

Also be advised that:

“Decisions to fund a grant are based on:

- the strengths and weaknesses of the application as identified by peer reviewers and, when applicable, approved by the Center for Mental Health Services’ National Advisory Council;
- availability of funds; and
- equitable distribution of awards in terms of geography (including urban, rural and remote settings) and balance among populations of focus and program size.”

11. I was wondering if developing clubhouses would be within the spectrum of the Statewide Consumer Network Grant. We have one staff and two members (consumers) from each of our clubhouses make up our board of directors. We are a 501c3 and we, I believe, meet all other criteria.

Yes, the clubhouse concept would be within the spectrum of the Statewide consumer network if it meets the purpose and goals of the grants. The purpose of this program is to enhance statewide consumer run organizations to promote service system capacity and infrastructure development to be consumer-centered and targeted toward recovery and resiliency. This program is one of SAMHSA infrastructure grants designed to support an array of activities to help the grantee build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining effective mental health services.

The goals of the Statewide Consumer Network program are to: 1) establish sustainable mechanisms for integrating the consumer voice in state mental

health systems and allied systems change and service delivery; 2) promote skill development with an emphasis on leadership and business management; 3) identify technical assistance needs of consumers and provide training and support to ensure that they are the catalysts for transforming the mental health and related systems in their State; and 4) develop coalitions and/or partnerships that support policy and program development in mental health systems of care. Unfortunately, SAMHSA can not advise you on the development of any potential application but we recommend that you review the list of required and allowable activities in the announcement on pages 5 and 6 to help you explore your interests. You can access the RFA via the internet using the following link --
http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2009/sm_09_014.aspx.

12. Would a consumer run organization that is comprised of individuals in recovery from drug addiction be eligible to apply for the consumer network grant?

The definition of consumer provided in the Glossary of the RFA is "An individual, 18 years of age or older, who has received mental health services." As stated in Appendix I of the RFA, eligible applicants are organizations whose Boards of Directors are comprised of over 50 percent consumers (as defined in the glossary). In addition, the applicant organization must be both controlled and managed by consumers. For more details regarding eligibility requirements, please see Section III and Appendix I of the RFA.

13. My system does not have a structured continuum of behavioral health services but we plan to build one. Are we eligible for this grant? Can we work with other organizations?

The RFA states that "Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities, tribal and urban Indian organizations, and community and faith-based organizations that meet the criteria for consumer-controlled organizations and that are not current recipients of a SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Network grant." The applicant organization must also be an independent organization with a 501(c)3 and be able to sign the Certificate of Eligibility (appendix I) and provide the supporting documentation referenced in the Certificate.

We can not advise on the design of the application and approach, however, the RFA provides a list of required and allowable activities as a reference for your consideration on page 5. The RFA also states that if your State has received a Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant (MHT SIG) award, you are encouraged to contact and work in partnership with the MHT SIG staff toward achieving common Statewide Consumer Network goals.

14. I have designed a program that will work with a university system to enhance knowledge of recovery in the training of professionals across a multi-state university systemic approach. Who should apply for the grant?

The RFA states that “Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities, tribal and urban Indian organizations, and community and faith-based organizations that meet the criteria for consumer-controlled organizations and that are not current recipients of a SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Network grant.” The applicant organization must also be an independent organization with a 501(c)3 and be able to sign the Certificate of Eligibility (appendix I) and provide the supporting documentation referenced in the Certificate.

15. I work for an organization that is interested in addressing the needs of the under served and under represented groups in my state but there is another organization that is a recipient of the current grant. Can a current grantee be part of an application but not as the applicant organization?

Yes. Remember the eligibility criteria states that currently-funded Statewide Consumer Network grantees are not eligible to apply for the new Statewide Consumer Network RFA.