

RFA SM-10-010 Mental Health Transformation Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Question:* Will current Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grantees (MHTSIG) receive special consideration from SAMHSA or the peer reviewers?

Answer: There is nothing stated in the evaluation or award criteria that gives preference to current MHTSIG grantees. All applicants have the opportunity to identify and document the work done to prepare to implement transformational services in their jurisdiction. Since this is a new and distinct program, a current MHTSIG grantee may receive a Mental Health Transformation Grant.

2. *Question:* A technical assistance conference call was held on March 11, 2010. Was it recorded? If so, how can I hear a playback?

Answer: Yes. It was recorded from start to finish (about 2 hours) and can be heard by dialing 1-866-408-8449. The recording will be available until April 30, 2010.

3. *Question:* Can a state or local jurisdiction submit more than one application for a Mental Health Transformation Grant?

Answer: A jurisdiction may submit more than one application. Each application would have to include all the required information, assurances, and budget information and be a separate program proposal. While it might be possible for a jurisdiction to receive more than one award, decisions to fund a grant are based on the review and selection process outlined in the RFA (see page 35). The selection criteria include “equitable distribution of awards in terms of geography (including urban, rural and remote settings) and balance among populations of focus and program size.”

4. *Question:* Are the examples of services for military personnel on page 5 of the RFA intended to apply to veterans also?

Answer: Yes. The focus on services to military personnel and supports to their families also includes veterans. Helpful links are provided in the RFA on page 5. Additional information on health care for veterans can be found at <http://www1.va.gov/health>

5. *Question:* In Section D of the Evaluation Criteria on Page 29, is there a distinction between key personnel in bullet 4 and key staff in bullet 5?

Answer: No. The redundancy is the result of a typographical error. Key personnel are the same as key staff.

6. *Question:* Can services be provided to military families under this grant program?

Answer: Yes. The MHTG is an opportunity to coordinate and/or provide services for military personnel who have, or are at risk for serious mental illnesses and their families. Grant funds may be used for the provision of services for which there is no current funding source. Examples of practices that could be implemented to support this group of individuals are included in the RFA.

7. *Question:* We intend to use the grant funds to support an expansion of a supported employment program in our county. Services are currently funded through a braided funding approach. Is this allowable under the MHTG program?

Answer: As long as all other RFA criteria are met the funding of additional, expanded, or supplemental services is allowable under the grant. You cannot use grant funds, however, to supplant (i.e., replace) other Federal and/or non-Federal funds that would otherwise be made available for the same activity or purpose.

8. *Question:* Are we limited to only using Evidence Based Practices (EBPs)?

Answer: There are many sources of information for evidence based as well as examples of best practices that are cited on pages 8 and 9 of the RFA, although you are not required to use the specific examples provided. If an EBP is not selected for implementation, the RFA allows you to explain the approach you plan to implement. Also, the RFA requires that you explain how the best practice or EBP you choose will meet the needs of the population of focus. In addition, a draft for a new Supported Housing toolkit is available upon request. Please direct your request to Neal.Brown@samhsa.hhs.gov by e-mail.

9. *Question:* How is “adults with or at-risk for serious mental illness” defined for the purposes of this RFA?

Answer: The definition of adults with serious mental illness is taken from the Federal Register / Vol. 58, No. 96 / Thursday, May 20, 1993. The definition can be found at <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/resources/dictionary.aspx/#S>. Applications that address at risk populations must present a convincing case that their population of focus is truly at risk, for example, by citing professional literature that identifies risks and probabilities of developing serious mental illnesses.