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Eric Friedlander
SECRETARY

July 17, 2023

Jay D. Hartz, Director
Legislative Research Commission
One Capitol Way
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Statutory Requirement for Submission of Kentucky's Application for Community Mental Health Services Block Grant & Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Funds

Dear Mr. Hartz:

Please find enclosed an Executive Summary and draft in progress of Kentucky's FFY 2024/2025 Unified Block Grant application for funds, pursuant to KRS 45.351. This combined application is for an estimated \$50.2M in federal block grant funds for mental health and substance use prevention and treatment. These funds are awarded on a non-competitive basis with a federally approved application. The mental health funds are designated for the provision of community services (non-institutional care) for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, Early Interventions for First Episode Psychosis, and for a continuum of crisis services for these populations. The substance use funds are for community-based services to promote primary prevention efforts and a continuum of treatment and recovery support services. In recent years, the process for applying for the funds has been combined although the funding allocations remain separate.

The final grant submission is statutorily due to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by September 1, 2023 and is submitted electronically through a specially-designed "webBGAS" program (rather than through grants.gov or eRA commons).

Please advise us of the appropriate legislative committee to review and evaluate the merits of this application. As the assigned Committee finalizes its report and findings, please forward a copy of that document to my office so we may include the LRC's documented review with the final grant application submission.

Thank you for your time and assistance in meeting these review requirements. Should you have additional questions, please contact Melissa Runyon at (502) 782-6238, or Melissa.Runyon@ky.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Friedlander".

Eric Friedlander, Secretary
Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Attachments