



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Office of the Commissioner

Andy Beshear
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Katherine R. Marks, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Eric C. Friedlander
Secretary

May 28, 2025

Jay D. Hartz, Director
Legislative Research Commission
702 Capital Avenue, Capitol Annex Rm. 183
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Hartz:

Please find enclosed an executive summary and draft in progress of Kentucky's FFY 2026/2027 Unified Block Grant application for Community Mental Health Services and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant funds, pursuant to statutory requirements in KRS 45.351.

This combined application is for an estimated \$33.8M 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 through a combined application 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, 2025, and is submitted electronically through a specially designed Web-Based Block Grant Application System (WebBGAS) 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 black ink that reads "Katherine Marks". The script is cursive and fluid.

Katherine Marks, PhD
Commissioner

Attachments