



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

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Katherine R. Marks, Ph.D.
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Steven Stack, MD
Secretary

May 8, 2026

Jay D. Hartz, Director
Legislative Research Commission
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Mr. Hartz:

Please find enclosed an executive summary related to Kentucky's FFY 2027 Unified Block Grant Abbreviated Funding Application for Community Mental Health Services and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant funds ("mini application"), pursuant to statutory requirements in KRS 45.351.

This combined mini 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 services to promote primary prevention efforts and a continuum of treatment and recovery support services.

The mini grant submission is statutorily due to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by September 1, 2026, 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 the cabinet of the appropriate legislative committee to review and evaluate the merits of this abbreviated funding application. As the assigned committee finalizes its report and findings, please share the document so the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities may include the LRC's documented review with the mini grant application submission.

Thank you for your time and assistance in meeting these review requirements. Should you have additional questions, please contact Josh Hardesty (joshi.hardesty@ky.gov).

Sincerely,

Katherine Marks

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Commissioner

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