



CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Fiscal Years 2024/2025 Federal Block Grant Application Overview

**Melissa Runyon, Mental Health/Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services
Block Grants Program Administrator, Division of Mental Health
Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities**

Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services

November 2, 2023

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Kentucky's Unified Block Grant Application FY 2024/2025

Title XIX Funding to Promote Transformation of State Public Behavioral Health Systems of Care

SAMHSA Block Grants

- Federal funds allocated to all 50 states and US territories
- Amount based on federal formulas developed based on population, economic indicators, and prevalence data/research
- Application/plan due in odd years (2023, 2025, 2027)
- Updated application/plan (mini applications: 2022, 2024, 2026)
- Annual reports
- Completion of revision request
- Participate in reviews/site visits by SAMHSA

Block Grant Required Expectations

Funds can only be expended for:

- Carrying out the plan as submitted;
- Evaluating programs and services carried out under the plan;
- Planning, administering, and educational activities related to providing services under the plan.

SAMHSA Block Grant Purposes

Block grant funds must be directed towards four purposes:

- Fund priority treatment and support services for individuals without insurance or for whom coverage is terminated for short periods of time.
- Fund those priority treatment and support services that demonstrate success in improving outcomes and/or supporting recovery that are not covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance.

SAMHSA Block Grant Purposes

Block grant funds must be directed towards four purposes:

- Fund primary prevention by providing universal, selective, and indicated prevention activities and services for persons not identified as needing treatment.
- Collect performance and outcome data to determine the ongoing effectiveness of behavioral health promotion, treatment, and recovery support services.

Unified Block Grant Components

Mental Health
(MH)

Substance Use
Prevention, Treatment
and Recovery
(SU)

Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRRA)

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

American Rescue Plan COVID Mitigation Funds (ARP Mitigation)

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)

Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Requirements

- Community-based services for individuals with serious mental illness (adults) or serious emotional disability (children & youth)
- 10% set aside for early interventions for first episode psychosis services (using an evidence-based Coordinated Specialty Care model)
- 5% set aside for crisis services
- Minimum expenditure amount for children/youth services
- Maintenance of effort

MHBG Priority Populations

Adults with serious mental illness (SMI)

Includes persons ages 18 and older who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition. Their condition substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities, such as:

- Basic daily living (e.g., eating or dressing)
- Instrumental living (e.g., managing money or getting around the community)
- Participating in social, family, vocational/educational contexts

MHBG Priority Populations

Children with serious emotional disability (SED)

Includes persons up to age 18 who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional issue. This condition results in a functional impairment that substantially interferes with, or limits, a child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.

- There are state definitions of SMI and SED.
- In addition to services for SMI and SED, funds may be used for data collection/outcomes, reporting, and other infrastructure supports.

MHBG Funding

- FY 23 amount (current): \$12,582,078
- President's proposed budget for FY24: \$20,553,587
- Maintenance of effort requirements: \$20,557,597
- Children's services set aside: \$3,832,010
- First episode psychosis set aside: 10% of final allocation
- Crisis set aside: 5% of final allocation

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment & Recovery Block Grant (SUBG) Requirements

- Community-based services for individuals with or at risk of substance use disorders (all ages)
- 20% set aside for prevention (services delivered prior to diagnosis)
- Minimum expenditure amount for:
 - Pregnant women with substance use disorders
 - Women with substance use disorders who have dependent children
- Maintenance of effort

SUBG Priority Populations and Services

- Pregnant women with substance use disorders
- Women with substance use disorders who have dependent children
- Persons who inject drugs
- Tuberculosis services (for substance use disorder service recipients)
- Early intervention services for HIV/AIDS, if designated state (Kentucky is not an HIV designated state)
- Kentucky specific – Service members, veterans and their families (SMFV)

SUBG Funding Levels

- FY 23 amount: \$21,294,912
- President's proposed budget for FY 24: \$29,615,125
- Maintenance of effort requirement: \$9,306,300
- Primary prevention: 20%
- Pregnant women/women with dependent children required expenditure: \$2,616,923

Additional Funds Provided through Block Grant

Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRRA)

- Three years to spend: March 2021 – March 2024
- MHBG: \$10,734,798
- SUBG: \$19,100,815

Additional Funds Provided through Block Grant

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- Four years to spend: Sept. 2021 – Sept. 2025
- MHBG: \$18,541,925
- SUBG: \$16,496,159

Additional Funds Provided through Block Grant

American Rescue Plan COVID Mitigation Funds (ARP Mitigation)

- Three years to spend: Sept. 2021 – Sept. 2024
- These funds can only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure continuity of services to support individuals connected to the behavioral health system.
- MHBG: \$638,096
- SUBG: \$562,833

Additional Funds Provided through Block Grant

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)

- Allocation 1: Oct. 2022 – Oct. 2024
- Allocation 2: Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2025
- \$832,991 for each allocation
- Designated to enhance access to behavioral health services during mental health emergencies/crises, including natural and man-made disasters, for those with complex behavioral health issues

FY 24/25 Kentucky Performance Indicators

- Avoid an increase in the rate of adults with SMI, who did not already reside in personal care homes, being discharged to personal care homes from state psychiatric hospitals.
- Maintain a provider workforce identified that serve children, youth, and transition age youth, including those with SED.
- Ensure rapid access to prescribers for young people being admitted into coordinated specialty care programs. (first episode psychosis)
- Increase the number of 988 crisis calls, texts and chats answered in-state.

FY 24/25 Kentucky Performance Indicators

- Simultaneously protect infants who are affected by prenatal substance use, and support mothers and families in their capacity to provide care to infants following birth/hospital discharges, by expanding plan of safe care (POSC) capacity and focus.
- Increase the number of Kentucky youth who receive prevention services related to vaping.
- Increase the accessibility and availability of syringe services programs (SSP) across the state.
- Ensure individuals receiving SUD services are appropriately screened for tuberculosis.

Thank You!