



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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RECEIVED

Steve Bullock, Governor

Sheila Hogan, Director

AUG 30 2019

Ravalli County Commissioners

DATE: 8/29/2019

TO: Montana Counties and Interested Parties

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FROM: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Addictive and Mental Disorders Division: Marie Matthews, Medicaid Branch Manager

SUBJECT: County and Tribal Crisis Matching Grants and Mobile Crisis Unit Programs for SFY 2020 & 2021-RFPs forthcoming

Since 2009, a County Matching Grant program has been in place to address the critical need for crisis intervention and jail diversion in Montana communities. Through House Bill 328, the 2017 Montana Legislature revised the statute to offer the matching grant fund opportunity to federally recognized tribal governments. Innovative local crisis services are needed to effectively respond to acute mental health crises to prevent unnecessary restrictive placements such as incarceration or Montana State Hospital.

County and Tribal Matching Grant

The County and Tribal matching funds granted to communities is a way to share costs and provide incentives for local resources to be spent on community-based treatment capacity. The program also encourages collaboration between local law enforcement officers, behavioral health professionals, and private corporations to offer creative solutions that can be sustained. **The match funding is designated to be used to support new projects or enhance current ones.** County government representatives, including county commissions, and federally recognized tribal governments are eligible to apply to provide services under this program.

The goals of the County and Tribal Matching Grant program are to:

- Support the treatment of mental illness closer to home by increasing local treatment capacity and creating better treatment outcomes;
- Increase the number of intervention and jail diversion options that may provide judges, county attorneys, and law enforcement with alternatives to incarceration;
- Establish and support collaboration among community stakeholders to address community needs;
- Reduce or eliminate detention center access for individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use disorders so they can remain in their respective communities;
- Reduce reliance on the MSH for emergency and court ordered detention and evaluation; and
- Reduce reliance on MSH when lower levels of care and services in the community are appropriate.

Mobile Crisis Unit Program

In the 2019 Montana Legislature, HB 660 was passed to create a mobile crisis unit program, providing for **local community grants to fund mobile crisis intervention services by mobile crisis unit professionals.** Mobile crisis intervention services are provided by a mobile crisis unit at the location where a person is having a mental health crisis, as determined through screening by dispatch. Local communities such as: local government representatives; tribal government representatives; and partnerships between local and tribal governments representatives and public/private stakeholders, such as healthcare entities, human service organizations, and behavioral healthcare providers, are eligible to apply to provide services under this program.

The goals of the Mobile Crisis Unit program are to:

- Stabilize acute psychiatric or behavioral symptoms;
- Evaluate treatment needs;
- Develop a plan to meet the ongoing needs of the person having a mental health crisis; and
- Transport the person to a more appropriate facility for care if applicable.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) will be soliciting proposals for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 and 2021 for the County and Tribal Matching Grant program and the Mobile Crisis Unit program through two separate Request for Proposals (RFP). AMDD believes there is no single solution for crisis services and that every community will need to tailor their strategies to meet their communities' unique realities and resources.

We encourage communities to consider national initiatives, resources, and models such as the National Association of Counties' Stepping Up Initiative, SAMHSA's GAINS Center, and the Sequential Intercept Model. Funds from the County and Tribal Matching Grant are very flexible and can be used on infrastructure, services, personnel, and to support community resource mapping and strategic planning. Mobile Crisis Units provide an opportunity to create a crisis management system customized for a community's needs and geographical area. Innovation starts with strong intersectoral partnerships and shared understanding of resources and barriers.

All applicants desiring consideration for SFY2020 and SFY2021 funding must submit a proposal, regardless of previous award. Two-year grant funding is available for SFY2020 and SFY2021 and must be achievable by June 30, 2021.

Please contact Linda Kinsey, Treatment Specialist at kinsey@mt.gov or 406-444-9582 with questions about either program and/or to request to be added onto the email list for notification when the RFP is released.

AMDD will host three informational calls on the County and Tribal Matching Grant RFP and Mobile Crisis Unit RFP opportunities. Each call will feature the same short presentation describing the goals, intended outcomes and scope of the RFP opportunities. Following each presentation there will be an open question and answer session. The calls will take place at the following dates and times:

September 10th, Tuesday, from 12-1 pm

September 19th, Thursday, from 12-1 pm

September 20th, Friday, from 9-12 pm

To RSVP and for further details, please contact Cindy Dallas at CDallas2@mt.gov