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Mental Health

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Services and Supports

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Guidance on Expansion and Implementation Eligible Funding Activities for Adult BH HCBS and CORE Services (Enhanced FMAP)

Issued: February 18, 2022

The purpose of this memo is to provide information and guidance for Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Supports and Services (OASAS) designated providers who are eligible to receive funds to be used for activities that will support expanding and implementing Adult Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services (BH HCBS) and Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) Services under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. This legislation provides supplemental funding for mental health services through the time-limited expansion of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) share of funds for Medicaid programs.

The State hosted multiple stakeholder feedback meetings with over 700 stakeholders to solicit extensive feedback in regard to these funding opportunities and identified *Adult Ambulatory & Peer Services* as one of four key priority areas.

Eligible organizations include designated providers of Adult Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services (BH HCBS) and Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) Services.

Providers will receive these funds through service rate increases. Eligible providers may use expansion and implementation rates for the activities described in this guidance. Additionally, eligible providers must commit to efforts to recruit a workforce that is representative of the people they serve and to develop cultural competency skills in their current and prospective workforce through staff development and training.

I. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR EXPANSION AND IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES

The following strategies comprise a list of eligible initiatives permitted under this funding for designated providers. Designated providers may choose to offer one or more of the following initiatives to expand and strengthen BH HCBS and CORE Services. These initiatives may be implemented in a manner that meets the needs of each program within the guidelines described below.

Note: Due to the time-limited nature of these funds it is strongly recommended that these funds are not used for ongoing salary or fringe benefit increases that cannot be supported beyond the funding period. Funds awarded under this scope of work may not be transferred or used for any other project or purpose.

Eligible activities or initiatives may include, but are not limited to:

A. Increasing Capacity to Serve Eligible Individuals

Funds may be utilized for sustainably increasing program capacity to serve additional individuals. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Staffing: Recruiting, hiring, and training qualified staff to build capacity for services*

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- Program Materials: Purchasing curricula, workbooks, and resources to support evidence-based psychiatric rehabilitation services

B. Investments in Technology Infrastructure

Funds may be used for investments in devices/hardware and software necessary to provide BH HCBS and CORE Services. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Computers and tablets
- Phone and data plans for staff members, including mobile hotspots, to support telehealth connectivity
- Electronic Health Record (EHR) and Electronic Billing Software (EBS) licensing fees, change fees, and technical assistance
- Telehealth platform licensing fees and technical assistance
- Connection of agency EHR to Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIO) to promote integrated care

C. Marketing and Outreach

Funds may be used to develop an effective referral network for CORE Services and BH HCBS. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Marketing materials (brochures, pamphlets, social media, and websites)
- Community education efforts such as lunch-and-learn sessions for referral sources

D. Transportation and Community Connections

Funds may be used to make one-time or initial investments in transportation and community connections that will strengthen and enhance engagement and service delivery. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Purchasing and maintaining a dedicated vehicle for staff use
- Purchasing memberships at local community centers, museums, etc. that service recipients will be able to access with staff

II. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

If an eligible provider receives funding through the Infrastructure Program Extension and the Workforce Recruitment and Retention program to support BH HCBS and/or CORE Services, the provider is responsible for clearly distinguishing allocation of funds to ensure any single expenditure is unduplicated.

III. TIMEFRAME AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Timeframe

Rates will be effective October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023 (18-month funding period). When approved, providers will receive a retroactive payment for any paid claims with dates of service starting 10/01/21. A provider attestation form is due by March 31, 2022 and is the only requirement to receiving these funds.

B. Attestation & Reporting Requirements

Providers must respond to the BH HCBS and CORE Expansion and Implementation Award notification by completing the attestation form by March 31, 2022. Provider attestations may be submitted by mail or email:

Mailing Address: ATTN: Workforce Funding Activities
 Office of Mental Health
 Community Budget and Fiscal Management
 44 Holland Ave – 7th Floor
 Albany, NY 12229

Email: OMH.Workforce@omh.ny.gov

OMH and OASAS may issue future guidance on additional reporting requirements, and providers are expected to comply with such requirements.