

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

MOIRA TASHJIAN, MPA
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 5, 2021

Tom Coderre
Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 18-41
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Coderre:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the points raised by your staff with regard to the New York State Office of Mental Health's (OMH) vision for the use of additional funding available via the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriation Act of 2021 as well as provide a preliminary budget for the expenditure of funds. OMH appreciates the feedback from SAMHSA on the use of the supplemental funding. Please find below OMH's response to the points raised and a preliminary budget for the supplemental funding provided.

- Pg. 1: "Prioritizing prevention across the lifespan and investing in programs which support the early identification and intervention of emotional disorders and mental illnesses, including first episode psychosis." This is a friendly reminder that MHBG dollars cannot be used for prevention efforts (with the exception of prevention in the SMI/SED population).

OMH acknowledges that the MHBG funding cannot be used for prevention efforts.

- Pg. 2: "Prioritizing prevention for children, youth, and families due to the traumatic impact of COVID including school-based services, home and community-based services and crisis intervention." This is a friendly reminder that MHBG dollars cannot be used for prevention efforts (with the exception of prevention in the SMI/SED population).

OMH acknowledges that the MHBG funding cannot be used for prevention efforts.

- Pg. 3: "...creating closer linkages among ambulatory, housing, and inpatient care providers with the comprehensive crisis system currently in development." This is just a friendly reminder that MHBG dollars cannot be used for housing or inpatient care.

OMH acknowledges that the MHBG funding cannot be used for housing or inpatient care.

- There is no budget. SAMHSA needs a preliminary budget, to include 5% crisis set-aside and the 10% FEP set-aside. What programs does NY plan to fund with these dollars (please identify with a budget).

A preliminary budget with required set-asides is provided (Attachment A).

- OMH appreciates the consideration given to the waivers requested in our initial correspondence and looks forward to hearing a final determination from SAMHSA.

This correspondence also contains a copy of the letter dated April 5, 2021 which described OMHs initial plans for spending the supplemental MHBG funding (Attachment B). OMH looks forward to hearing from SAMHSA regarding the requested waivers as well as approval of the proposed preliminary budget provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Marie T. Sullivan".

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, M.D.
Commissioner

cc: Moira Tashjian

ATTACHMENT A

Preliminary Budget

Proposed Spending of the \$46.3M in supplemental block grant funding will be consistent with the activities presented in the plan presented in the April 5, 2021 correspondence to SAMHSA. Please see the outline of anticipated spending below:

Program/Services	Amount
Crisis system development; 988 preparation; Mobile crisis response; Crisis residence; Crisis stabilization; Ambulatory system re-design; Law enforcement training and diversion; and, Prison re-entry (5% minimum required)	\$29,538,392
First Episode Psychosis (10% minimum required)	\$4,633,929
Kids, Youth and Family Services (25% minimum)	\$9,850,000
State Administration (5% maximum allowed)	\$2,316,964
Total	\$46,339,285

OMH anticipates that as planning continues, more specific amounts will be identified for the specific activities OMH has proposed within the overall expansion and development of a NYS comprehensive crisis system.