

FY 2021 Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) Grant Program Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) SM-21-014 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is a Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), or tribal organizations eligible to apply?

Yes, FQHCs, CCBHCs, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria listed in the FOA under Section III.1, which states “Eligible applicants are non-profit Community Mental Health Centers, including state and local government-operated Community Mental Health Centers, as defined by Section 1913(c) of the Public Health Services Act.”

2. Where can I find Section 1913(c) of the PHS Act, statutory language?

The criteria for mental health centers can be accessed at 42 U.S. Code § 300x-2 - Certain agreements (c) Criteria for mental health centers:

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid%3AUSC-prelim-title42-chapter6A-subchapter17-partB&saved=%7CKHRpdGxlOjQyIHNIY3Rpb246MzAweC0yMSBlZGl0aW9uOnByZWxpbSkGT1IlgKGdyYW51bGVpZDpVU0MtcHJlbGltLXRpdGxlNDItc2VjdGlvbjMwMHgtMjEp%7CdHJlZXNvcnQ%3D%7C%7C0%7Cfalse%7Cprelim&edition=prelim>

3. Is a for-profit organization eligible to apply?

No, eligible applicants must be not-for-profit CMHCs.

4. Are currently funded SAMHSA CCBHC Expansion grantees eligible to apply to the CMHC FOA?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria in Section III.1 of the FOA.

5. The FOA states that “applicants must provide documentation of certification or licensure as a CMHC from their state and/or accreditation from a nationally recognized accreditation organization.” What kind of nationally recognized accreditation is acceptable to SAMHSA?

CMHCs may submit an accreditation from a national accrediting agency (e.g., The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, Council on Accreditation, Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, etc.) as a CMHC.

6. Our state does not certify or license CMHCs and we do not have an accreditation from a nationally recognized organization, although we are a CMHC. Can the state submit a letter on our behalf and, if so, what should be included in the letter?

Yes, the state can submit a letter on behalf of the CMHC. The letter should be included in Attachment 1. The letter should confirm that the applicant organization is a non-profit CMHC, as defined by Section 1913(c) of the Public Health Services Act and is providing services in the state that is submitting the letter. Please note that the applicant

organization must still submit the Statement of Assurance (Appendix C) as part of Attachment 1.

7. Are there any other eligibility requirements in addition to being a CMHC?

Yes, in addition to meeting the CMHC eligibility requirements, applicants must have 1) at least two years of experience (as of the due date of the application) providing relevant services and 2) the capacity and will serve the specified number of unduplicated individuals with SED, SMI, and COD with these grant funds based on the funding amount requested. This documentation is included in Appendix C - Statement of Assurance, which is on page 36 of the FOA. The Statement of Assurance is signed by the Authorized Representative and is included in Attachment 1 of the application.

8. The FOA requires two years of experience for applicant organizations. Can you explain what kind of experience SAMHSA is looking for?

The applicant must have at least two years of experience (as of the due date of the application) providing relevant services as required in the FOA, which begin on page 6.

9. CMHC's are operated by the state. Can each of the state operated CMHCs apply?

Yes, state operated CMHCs are eligible to apply, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria listed in section III. 1. If the CMHCs use the same Tax ID or DUNS number, then only one application is allowed.

10. Can several CMHCs collaborate and apply as one applicant?

No, only one CMHC can be the applicant organization. The other CMHCs could be partnering organizations.

11. We are a substance abuse provider and are accredited by a national accrediting organization? Are we eligible to apply?

No. Applicants must be CMHCs as defined in section 1913 (c)

12. In our state we do not call our providers Community Mental Health Centers. Do we have to call ourselves CMHCs?

No, organizations are not required revise their name. Organizations are eligible to apply, as long as the agency meets the criteria listed in section III.1.

13. When are award recipients required to start the project?

As stated on page 6 of the FOA, the project must be implemented, and service delivery is expected no later than four months after grant award. A timeline must be part of the project narrative as noted in Section B4 on page 17 of the FOA.

14. What does the total number of clients served include?

As noted in the FOA, applicants must indicate in Section B.1 of the Project Narrative, the total number of unduplicated individuals with SED, SMI, and COD that will be served each year of the grant and over the total project period.

15. Can we use all the requested funding for staff?

Yes, an applicant may submit a budget with all of the grant funds listed in personnel.

16. Can we purchase Wi-Fi and hotspots for clients?

No, purchase of Wi-Fi or hotspots for clients are not an allowable cost.

17. The cover page references “(Initial Announcement)” – What does this mean?

The “Initial Announcement” indicates that this was the first announcement posted. If SAMHSA modifies the announcement anytime during the open period the cover page will show “Modified Announcement”. The CMHC FOA was modified on April 15, 2021. The modification was an update to the table on page 11. The table was updated to add a row for applicants that would like to request \$1,000,000 per year while serving a minimum of 200 individuals per year.

18. Is there a sample of a successful grant application that can be shared as a reference point?

No, however, SAMHSA developed a resource manual entitled: “**Developing a Competitive SAMHSA Grant Application**” that provides valuable information on how to prepare a strong application. Additional forms and resources for submitting your application can be found at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/applying/forms-resources>.

19. Is infrastructure development defined in this context as new construction or does it include remodeling/expanding existing structures?

No, infrastructure development does not relate to construction or alteration/renovations of brick and mortar structures. Infrastructure in this context is systemic infrastructure activities that support services, for which there are no individual services delivered. Examples include the development and maintenance of a crisis-response capacity, including hotlines, mobile crisis teams, web-based check-in groups (for medication, treatment, and re-entry follow-up), drop-in centers, respite services, etc. Please note that on page 49 of the FOA, applicants may request up to \$75,000 for renovations and alterations of existing facilities, if necessary and appropriate to the project.