



MARYLAND Department of Health

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Behavioral Health Administration

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Responses to the State Opioid Response (SOR): Recovery Housing Solicitation January 11, 2019

The following questions were submitted by community providers, Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) and Local Addictions Authorities (LAAs) in response to the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) solicitation for proposals for expansion of Recovery Housing through the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant.

1. Are Level 3.1 Halfway Houses eligible for this grant?

Response #1: As of January 1, 2019, American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Level 3.1 services became Medicaid reimbursable. All licensed residential low-intensity Level 3.1 programs that participates in the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) and receives state or Medicaid reimbursement for this level of care is ineligible for funding through this grant. This would constitute a duplication of payment.

SAMHSA SOR grant dollars may not be used to supplant existing grant funding or service reimbursement that the applicant has received or is eligible to receive for the same or similar service or activity.

2. Can SOR funding for Recovery Housing be used for individuals who do not have a primary opioid use disorder?

Response #2: The target population identified for funding through the State Opioid Response Grant are individuals who have an opioid use disorder (OUD). In addition, individuals who have a co-existing non-opioid-related substance use disorder or a co-occurring mental health disorder may be supported with this funding.

3. Are the services through Recovery Housing, if any, contingent on the Level of Recovery Housing (1-4)?

Response #3: Yes, Recovery Residences are expected to provide services in accordance with the level of support for which the residence has been certified for by BHA or are in

the process of being certified for by BHA. Levels of support are based on the National Alliance for Recovery Residences' (NARR) Standards. For more information on the Level of Recovery Supports please visit the following website:

https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/NARR_levels_summary.pdf.

4. Would you be able to provide a copy of an organization's grant application previously awarded funding to run Recovery Housing?

Response #4: This is the first solicitation for proposals for recovery housing. There are no previously submitted grant applications available related to expansion of Recovery Housing.

5. Is this funding we as a program should be applying for? Or is it funding that will be distributed to the counties? Do we work with the county to obtain funding for individuals?

Response #5: All programs interested in applying for SOR funding should submit their proposal to their LBHA or LAA. LBHAs and LAAs will review proposals based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the solicitation. Following the LBHA and LAA's review and selection, a request for funding will be submitted to BHA.

BHA will award funding to the prospective jurisdictions who will then subcontract with selected certified recovery residences.

6. Is there a certain contact at the LAA's we should send the proposals to?

Response #6: Proposals should be sent to the Director of the LBHA or LAA. A list of contacts for the LBHAs and LAAs are located on the Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities website at <https://www.marylandbehavioralhealth.org/>.

7. What are the identified needs in this area?

Response #7: As per the solicitation (page 3), the identified needs within the local jurisdictions is to be described as part of the proposal to be submitted by the recovery residences to the corresponding LBHA or LAA.

8. What are allowable expenses?

Response #8: The allowable expenses are:

- A daily rate for cost of stay at the Recovery Residence at a rate not to exceed \$65.00 for Women and Children and Transition Aged Youth and \$45.00 for non-specialty. This daily rate includes an additional \$20 to collect data required by SAMHSA. Participation in the grant requires that additional data is reported. Recipients of funding through this grant must commit to ensure that required data is submitted to SAMHSA and BHA within the designated timeframes and in the requested format.
- Staff salary and fringe, i.e. Peer Support and/or House Manager
- Training in accordance with NARR Standards
- Supplies and equipment
- Start-up funds (Capital projects are not an allowable expense under this the grant)

9. If a jurisdiction has more than one interested vendor, may multiple vendors be funded? If there are multiple proposals, how is the 10-page limit impacted?

Response #9: Yes, multiple vendors in a given jurisdiction may be awarded funding. As per the solicitation (see page 4), proposals from multiple applicants should be consolidated into a single integrated proposal when submitted to BHA. Each vendor may submit up to 10 pages each. The proposed budgets for each vendor are to be submitted separately as separate attachments.

10. Will selected vendors and/or local jurisdictions be able to bill residents for services, i.e. Maryland Recovery Net (MDRN)?

Response #10: The selected vendor may not bill residents for services or activities for which the vendor is receiving funding from this grant. Nor may the vendor receive MDRN funding for services funded under this grant. As stated in the response to Question #1, SAMHSA SOR grant dollars may not be used to supplant existing grant funding or service reimbursement that the applicant has received or is eligible to receive for the same purpose. The vendor should request services needed to successfully implement within their proposals. If the selected vendor is receiving funding or reimbursement from MDRN, the LBHA or LAA, or some other source, then the vendor is not eligible to receive SOR grant funding for the same service or activity. BHA will provide guidance and technical assistance to the LBHAs, LAAs and the selected providers on acceptable billing practices as part of the grant implementation process.

11. Are there services that need to be provided in addition to recovery housing (care coordination? job readiness? childcare, etc.?)

Response #11: Services provided should be consistent with the level of support identified in the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) Standards under which the Recovery Residence is or will be certified for.

12. Will these funds take the place of existing funds dedicated to Recovery Housing?

Response #12: No, these funds will not take the place of existing funds dedicated to Recovery Housing. However, they cannot be used to supplant existing funding or reimbursement as described in the response to Question #1.

13. Is there a bed rate reimbursement for recovery houses or ongoing grant funding?

Response #13: Certified recovery residence vendors may request a daily rate not to exceed \$65.00 for recovery residences serving Women and Children and \$45.00 for non-specialty recovery residences. Grant funding for certified recovery residences is intended to be start-up funds. It not anticipated to be ongoing upon the conclusion of the SOR grant. Recovery residences are advised to work with their LBHA or LAA to develop a sustainability plan to ensure that services and supports provided under this grant can continue beyond the date by which SOR grant funding has been exhausted. This is a capacity expansion grant, and BHA expects the increased capacity to remain once the grant funding ends.

14. Is the funding for Recovery Housing targeted for already up and running Certified Recovery Housing settings in Maryland?

Response #14: This is a capacity expansion grant. Thus, SOR grant funding is limited to new recovery residences or to existing certified recovery residences with a plan to increase bed capacity. New recovery residences are required to be certified within 60 days of the notice of award.

15. Does the grant include the cost of purchasing/renting the property to be used for recovery housing?

Response #15: No, the grant does not include the cost of purchasing/renting the property to be used for Recovery Housing.

16. Can the proposal be submitted under a new company name?

Response #16: Proposals should be submitted as registered through the State Department of Assessment and Taxation(SDAT).

17. Must our company be a non-profit to qualify for such a grant?

Response #17: No, both For Profit and Nonprofit vendors are invited to respond to this solicitation.

18. Can salaries be included in the proposal? This include the contract monitoring, peer specialist, or house managers.

Response #18: Allowable expenses include salary and fringe of staff needed for the operation of Recovery Residence. This does not include contract monitoring by the local jurisdiction.

19. Is the LBHA or LAA the pass-through and grant monitor for this funding and if so, are indirect costs allowed?

Response #19: The LBHA and LAA is a subgrantee and the contract monitor for this grant. Indirect cost is allowable but it must be detailed in the budget to what the cost will cover. The indirect cost may not exceed 10%.

20. Typically, Recovery Residences allow single sex individuals of 18 years or older. It is noted that two separate populations have been identified as the target populations. Does this mean the two populations cannot be in a single residence or program?

Response #20: BHA is seeking specialty providers to expand Recovery Housing for these two specialty populations. Transition Age Youth should not be housed with adults. Women with Children should only be housed with other Women with Children.

21. I have a new home that is not in operation yet, as we are having a full house sprinkler system installed. The expected date of opening is February 1, 2019. Will this home and program still be eligible? Do we have to wait to open the home until funding is approved?

Response #21: The home may be eligible funding. The home will be required to be certified within 60 days of the notice of award.

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22. Would a vehicle for the programs be eligible for reimbursement as a one-time cost?

Response #22: BHA is not allowed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to approve a vehicle with federal funds.

23. We are currently preparing an existing home for a new population with a new curriculum. Would this be an eligible program as an expansion of services?

Response #23: There must be demonstrated expansion of bed capacity to be eligible.

24. Is the grant skewed to the homeless and veteran population?

Response #24: Individuals experiencing homelessness and veterans are included in the target population if they otherwise meet the criteria of the grant as described in question 2. Other populations may also be served.

25. Can any of the funding be used for Peer Support services and to expand transportation, etc.?

Response #25: As previously stated, staff salary and fringe may be supported with SOR grants funds. This would include hiring a certified peer support specialist to work in the Recovery Residence. Transportation vouchers may also be requested.

26. Can any of the funds be used for Naloxone?

Response #26: Provision of Naloxone for Recovery Residences is already grant funded. Funding for Naloxone should be requested from the local health departments.

27. If a county isn't one of the highest priority counties or a county with the highest number of overdoses deaths, will we receive a small amount of funding or any funding?

Response #27: All jurisdictions are encouraged to apply. As per the solicitation, the proposal should describe the need and identify the service gaps within the designated jurisdiction.

28. What reports will the health department be required to submit to BHA.

Response #28: Currently, BHA is finalizing the reporting requirements for submission to BHA for SOR-funded: Recovery Residences. SAMHSA also require reports which will contain both fiscal and programmatic reporting elements. More information will be provided at an implementation meeting.

29. When do you anticipate the awards to be announced and funding allocated?

Response: BHA intends to review and issue awards to the local jurisdictions as quickly as possible so that BHA can meet federal timelines for initiation of services. It is anticipated announcements will be made mid-February and allocated by the end of February.

30. We are also pleased that Maryland's existing policy to only provide public funding to recovery residences that don't discriminate against patients in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) will apply to these funds. While it is not specified, we assume this policy applies to the use of any of the 3 FDA-approved medications for treatment of OUD?

Response #30: Yes, this policy applies to all three FDA-approved medications for treatment of OUD.