



Request for Information

YH21-0067 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants 2021 Supplemental Funding

Procurement Officer:

ISSUE DATE: February 26, 2021

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RFI NAME: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants 2021 Supplemental Funding

RESPONSE DUE DATE: March 15, 2021 no later than 3:00 pm AZ time

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS RFI SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER VIA E-MAIL BY March 5, 2021 5:00 PM ARIZONA TIME ON THE Q &A FORM PROVIDED WITH THIS RFI. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE AHCCCS WEBSITE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL POTENTIAL RESPONDENTS.

Responses to this RFI must be in the actual possession of AHCCCS on or prior to the time and date indicated above.

This is a Request for Information ("RFI") only and as such will NOT result in any award of contract.

AHCCCS is in the information gathering stage and no decisions have been made concerning the agency's intent to issue a formal Request for Proposal. Responding to this RFI is appreciated and will NOT prohibit the respondents from responding to any future procurements.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the appropriate Procurement Agency. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. A person requiring special accommodations may contact the person responsible for this request as identified below.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. OVERVIEW

AHCCCS is the single state Medicaid agency for the State of Arizona. In that capacity it is responsible for operating the Title XIX and Title XXI programs through the State's 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver, which was granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As of October 1, 2020, AHCCCS provides coverage to over 2.0 million members in Arizona. Arizona's Medicaid program has been delivered primarily as a managed care program with a relatively small residual, fee-for-service (FFS) component. Additional information may be found on the AHCCCS website reporting page: <https://azahcccs.gov/Resources/Reports/population.html>.

Over 85% of the AHCCCS program's expenditures in SFY 2019 were through managed care programs. AHCCCS contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that are responsible for providing Acute, Long Term Care, and Behavioral Health Services. A list of contracted plans can be found here: <https://azweb.statemedicaid.us/HealthPlanLinksNet/HPLinks.aspx>

The program has a total fund budget for SFY 2021 of approximately \$14 billion. AHCCCS has over 98,000 active providers in Arizona, such as individual medical and behavioral health practitioners, therapy disciplines, institutions, durable medical equipment companies and transportation entities. Additional information may be found on the AHCCCS website reporting page: <https://wwwazahcccs.gov/Resources/Reports/federal.html>

AHCCCS currently serves as the Single State Authority (SSA) as designated by the Governor to administer federal block grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) and Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) are currently administered by AHCCCS through Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs), Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHAs), and other contractors such as the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF).

The purpose of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) is to help plan, implement, and evaluate activities that prevent and treat substance use. Priority/target populations and services include:

- Pregnant women/teenagers who use drugs by injection,
- Pregnant women/teenagers who use substances,
- Other persons who use drugs by injection,
- Substance using women and teenagers with dependent children and their families, including females who are attempting to regain custody of their children,
- All other individuals with a substance use disorder, regardless of gender or route of use, (as funding is available),
- Tuberculosis services,
- Early intervention services for HIV/AIDS; and
- Primary substance abuse prevention services.

The purpose of the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) is to support the provision of comprehensive community mental health services. Target populations and services include:

- Adults with serious mental illness (SMI),
- Crisis Services
- Children with serious emotional disturbances (SED); and

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- First episode psychosis (FEP)

2. PURPOSE of RFI and BACKGROUND:

AHCCCS is soliciting input from providers and contractors to inform the strategic use of supplemental (one time) block grant funding.

While the Arizona state allocations are not yet available, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and included national appropriations of:

- \$1.65B for the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and
- \$1.65B for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG).

AHCCCS presumes all eligibility and allowability for the supplemental funding will be consistent with current grant requirements. For information related to allowable SABG and MHBG services and activities as well as definitions of services, please refer to AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Exhibit 300-2B, [AHCCCS Covered Non-Title XIX XXI Behavioral Health Services](#), and [320-T1 - Block Grants and Discretionary Grants](#).

The timeline for receiving and expending the supplemental funds has not yet been determined. At this time, AHCCCS does not anticipate ongoing supplemental funding.

3. REQUIREMENTS:

3.1. AHCCCS is requesting information from interested parties regarding unmet and anticipated needs for additional activities allowable under each block grant program. AHCCCS will evaluate strategies for consideration based on the following guiding principles:

- 3.1.1. Alignment with activities allowable as per current AHCCCS AMPM policies.
- 3.1.2. Relevance to population and services not covered by Medicaid.
- 3.1.3. Relevance to priority or targeted populations.
- 3.1.4. Alignment to AHCCCS draft Strategic Plan and/or the Prevention Plan.
- 3.1.5. Publicly available, official, non-controversial data demonstrating need for enhanced and/or additional services.
- 3.1.6. Feasibility of sustainability beyond the contract period.
 - a. At this time, AHCCCS does not anticipate these supplemental funds to continue past 9/30/23.
- 3.1.7. Timely impact to Arizonans in need of services.

4. TIMELINE:

The following table is a summary of key activities.

Note – There is not an associated Request for Proposal (RFP) associated with this RFI.

Deadline	Key Activities
2/24/21	Request for Information (RFI) posted
3/11/21	RFI responses due

5. INFORMATION REQUESTED:

If a stakeholder is interested in providing information or input, AHCCCS requests a written response to any of the prompts in 5.0 that outlines relevant information and data that AHCCCS should consider in the development of its approach to targeting and contracting for any supplemental funding.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

There is no expectation to respond to all prompts. A substantive response to even one prompt is welcome.

When data is referenced, sources should be included.

SABG-related information

- 5.1 Identify any unmet needs for Arizonans related to substance use treatment in the following categories:
 - Support services
 - Residential services
 - Behavioral health day programs
 - Treatment services
 - Crisis intervention
 - Rehabilitation services
 - Peer support services
- 5.2 Identify any underserved populations in need of additional outreach, services or treatment. Specify the population (age, gender, language, tribe, culture, ethnicity, citizenship/immigration status, housing status, geographic region, etc.) and substantiate the need with data. Respondents may include populations that are currently experiencing behavioral health disparities and/or experiencing barriers to treatment.
- 5.3 Describe opportunities to expand current primary substance abuse prevention efforts and/or initiate new services related to community based prevention services and school based prevention services. Services should include a description of the utilization of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Services (CSAP) as identified below:
 - Information dissemination
 - Education
 - Alternatives
 - Problem identification and referral
 - Community-based process
 - Environmental
- 5.4 Describe opportunities to expand current primary substance abuse prevention efforts and/or initiate new services related to community based prevention services through providing services and activities to each of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Classifications for Prevention.
 - Universal
 - Selected
 - Indicated
- 5.5 Identify opportunities for AHCCCS to expand school based substance abuse prevention services. Respondents can include programming examples, stakeholder engagement opportunities, and administration examples to fund school based prevention services.
- 5.6 Identify opportunities to expand current efforts to prevent drug overdose and/or initiate new services including secondary and/or tertiary prevention strategies.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- 5.7 Describe any opportunity to centralize tracking of overdose prevention efforts and/or increase efficiency and use of a central registry.
- 5.8 Identify how much supplemental funding (if any) could be utilized for overdose reversal medication and how much supplemental funding (if any) could be utilized for overdose reversal medication distribution.
- 5.9 Identify unmet needs related to the provider network's ability to conduct outreach to any and all potential Arizonans in need of services. Identify opportunities for expanded and/or innovative outreach efforts. Responses should take into consideration the populations newly affected by the pandemic.
- 5.10 Identify technical assistance, training, and capacity-building that would be most beneficial to treatment service providers.
- 5.11 Identify technical assistance, training, and capacity-building for (non-treatment) community-based organizations that would enhance the collective response to substance use disorder.
- 5.12 Identify any opportunities to enhance coordination between HIV programs and behavioral health programs.
- 5.13 Identify any opportunities to implement infection control procedures designed to prevent the transmission of Tuberculosis (TB).
- 5.14 Identify opportunities to support the unique needs of pregnant and parenting mothers (such as child care while in treatment) who are addressing substance use disorder. Identify opportunities to implement evidence-based, gender-responsive early intervention, treatment and recovery services for women and their families.

MHBG-related information

- 5.15 Identify any unmet needs for Arizonans related to mental health treatment in the following categories:
 - Support services
 - Residential services
 - Behavioral health day programs
 - Treatment services
 - Crisis intervention
 - Rehabilitation services
 - Peer support services
- 5.16 Identify opportunities to enhance current AHCCCS assessment policies related to the SMI, SED, and FEP populations.
- 5.17 Identify opportunities to increase outreach to populations experiencing SMI, and to enhance the provisions of services to this population.
- 5.18 Identify opportunities to increase outreach to populations experiencing Serious Emotional Disturbances (SEDs), and to enhance the provisions of services to this population.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- 5.19 Identify opportunities to increase outreach to populations experiencing Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI), including but not limited to First Episode Psychosis (FEP), and to enhance the provisions of services to this population.
- 5.20 Identify unmet needs related to the health plan and/or provider network's ability to conduct outreach to any and all potential Arizonans in need of services. Identify opportunities for expanded and/or innovative outreach efforts. Responses should take into consideration the populations newly affected by the pandemic.
- 5.21 Identify areas of technical assistance, training, and capacity-building that would be most beneficial to mental health treatment service providers.
- 5.22 Identify technical assistance, training, and capacity-building for (non-treatment) community-based organizations that would enhance the collective response to mental health treatment.
- 5.23 Identify any opportunities to enhance coordination between First Episode Psychosis (FEP) programs and other behavioral health programs for enhanced assessment and referral processes.
- 5.24 Identify any underserved populations in need of additional outreach, services, or treatment. Specify the population (age, gender, language, tribe, culture, ethnicity, citizenship/immigrant status, housing status, geographic region, etc.) and substantiate the need with data. Respondents may include populations that are currently experiencing behavioral health disparities and/or experiencing barriers to treatment.
- 5.25 Identify opportunities to better serve individuals with a mental health diagnosis that is co-occurring with another diagnosis such as substance use disorder, developmental disorder, or a medical condition.
- 5.26 Identify opportunities to better serve justice involved youth and adults that may be eligible for services. Include potential solutions for increasing or improving: the provider network and/or staffing, screening and assessment, trauma responsive care, culturally responsive care, collaboration and/or information sharing needs, care coordination needs, obtaining consent/assent to treat, "reach in" care.
- 5.27 Identify opportunities to decrease hospitalizations that are due to poor mental health symptoms.
- 5.28 Identify opportunities to increase and/or enhance crisis services within the state.
- 5.29 Identify unmet crisis and related crisis services needs within the state, including crisis services and/or programs that could be funded within the state.

General Information

- 5.30 Describe needs that have emerged or significantly increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Substantiate with data.
- 5.31 Based on data trends, predict the greatest anticipated needs over the next 1-3 years. Explain.
- 5.32 Explain any systems-level changes that would result in improved efficiency and effectiveness for AHCCCS contractors that would likely result in improved services to Arizonans.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- 5.33 Identify how funding could be utilized to promote services that are culturally appropriate for all age groups, genders, races, and ethnic backgrounds.
- 5.34 Explain how additional funding might be used to expand provider capacity to capture, collect, and report GPRA data.
- 5.35 Explain any opportunities or innovative ideas to utilize the one-time funding that were not relevant in the previous prompts.
- 5.36 Identify and explain any potential administration barriers related to an increase of funding, such as workforce capacity, capacity to provide additional services, administrative burden, etc. Respondents should include the level of administration experiencing these potential barriers (such as direct service provider, RBHA, etc.) within their response.

6. CONTENTS OF YOUR RESPONSE:

If you are interested in responding to this RFI, AHCCCS is requesting the following:

- 6.1. **Detailed Written Response** to any or all of the areas listed above. AHCCCS appreciates your attempt to limit your response to **twelve (12) pages**, and should reference the prompt number and include the respondent's name and RFI number at the top of each page.
- 6.2. **A completed Attachment A**, Respondent's Information, which includes contact information, including name, title, mailing address, email address, authorized signature, and phone number of the contact person for questions relating to the RFI.

7. HOW TO RESPOND:

- 7.1. Submit electronic response directly to the procurement officer listed in this RFI at Procurement@azahcccs.gov.
- 7.2. Submit responses no later than the time indicated on the front page of this RFI. Please take into consideration the Arizona time zone.

8. CONFIDENTIAL/PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

- 8.1. To the extent allowed by law, information contained in a response to a request for information shall be considered confidential until a formal procurement process is concluded or for two (2) years, whichever occurs first. This RFI and responses to the RFI are subject to the Arizona Public Records law and as such, are open to public inspection after this time.
- 8.2. Please do not submit anything considered "proprietary" or "confidential".
- 8.3. Information received by AHCCCS becomes the property of AHCCCS and will not be returned to the sender

9. REIMBURSEMENT

AHCCCS will not reimburse any respondent for the cost of preparing and submitting a response to the RFI or for travel costs associated with presenting the demo.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

10. DISCLAIMER/NO AWARD OF CONTRACT

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Attachment A: Respondent's Contact Information

Company Name	
Address	_____

Federal Employer ID Number	

For Clarification of this Response Contact:

Name
Title
Phone
Email

Signature of Authorized Person
Name
Title
Date

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