

## Center for Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. What is the Center for Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)?

The MHBG is allocated from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to provide mental health services to adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). It is designed to support States in reducing their reliance on psychiatric inpatient services and to facilitate the development of effective community-based mental health services and programs for adults with SMI and children with SED. This grant has the following goals:

- To ensure access to a comprehensive system of care, including employment, housing, case management, rehabilitation, dental services, and health services, as well as mental health services and supports;
- To promote participation by consumer/survivors and their families in planning and implementing services and programs, as well as in evaluating State mental health systems;
- To ensure access for underserved populations, including people who are homeless, residents of rural areas, and older adults;
- To promote recovery and community integration for adults with SMI and children with SED;
- To increase accountability through uniform reporting on access, quality, and outcomes of services.

### 2. Can anyone be served with the MHBG?

Only persons with SMI or SED qualify as eligible for services under the MHBG.

### 3. How does Arizona define SMI and SED?

The determination of SMI requires both a qualifying SMI diagnosis and functional impairment as a result of the qualifying diagnosis. Details of the functioning levels and qualifying diagnoses can be found in the Provider Manual section 3.10 SMI Eligibility Determination [http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/provider/sec3\\_10.pdf](http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/provider/sec3_10.pdf).

The definition of children with SED is as follows:

1. Children from birth up to age 18

AND

2. Child currently or at any time during the past year, has had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR). Qualifying SED diagnoses are listed as ICD-9 codes in [ADHS/DBHS Provider Manual Attachment 7.5.3, SMI and SED Qualifying Diagnoses Table](#).

AND

3. The mental, behavioral or emotional disorder has resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities. Such roles or functioning include achieving or maintaining

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developmentally appropriate social, behavioral, cognitive, communicative, or adaptive skills. Functional impairments of episodic, recurrent, and continuous duration are included unless they are temporary and expected responses to stressful events in the environment.

#### **4. How are MHBG funds allocated?**

Arizona allocates 50% of MHBG service dollars to children with SED and 50% to adults with SMI.

#### **5. What services cannot be paid for with the MHBG?**

The MHBG funding cannot be used for the following:

- a. To provide inpatient hospital services
- b. To make cash payments to intended recipients of health services
- c. To purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) any building or other facility, or purchase major medical equipment;
- d. To satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-Federal funds as a condition for the receipt of Federal funds
- e. To provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or nonprofit private entity;
- f. To provide individuals with hypodermic needles or syringes so that such individuals may use illegal drugs, unless the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service determines that a demonstration needle exchange program would be effective in reducing drug abuse and the risk that the public will become infected with the etiologic agent for AIDS.
- g. To pay the salary of an individual through a grant or other extramural mechanism at a rate in excess of Level I of the Executive Salary Schedule for the award year; see [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap\\_summary.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm)
- h. To purchase treatment services in penal or correctional institutions of the State of Arizona
- i. To provide acute care or physical health care services including payments of co-pays

#### **6. What services can be paid for with the MHBG?**

Services for SED children are targeted to those not covered by Medicaid for TXIX children. These services may include flex funds, traditional healing, acupuncture, or room and board, etc. As funding is available, non-TXIX children with SED may be served. MHBG funds may be used to support transition services for SED children in juvenile detention centers. These services include case management, family support, and other appropriate services identified by the child and Family Team. The MHBG is to be used as the payor of last resort.

For Adults with Serious Mental Illness, the funding is available for both TXIX and NTXIX individuals:

- TXIX: services not covered by Medicaid except for Room and Board
- NTXIX Service Package (see <http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/provider/forms/pma3-13-1.pdf>).

#### **7. Is there a process to request a waiver to the NTXIX Service Package for SMI?**

Any deviation from the NTXIX Service Package for SMI will require a waiver request submitted to the Division of Behavioral Health Services, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), for consideration.

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**8. Can the MHBG be used for crisis services?**

Yes, a limited amount of the MHBG funding can be utilized for crisis services, provided the individual is SMI or SED.

**9. Can the person receiving MHBG funded services be required to pay a co-pay?**

Persons provided services paid for with MHBG funds cannot be charged co-pays.

**10. Can the MHBG be utilized for Room and Board?**

It is an appropriate use of MHBG SED funds to be used for Room and Board. However, Room and Board is not an allowable service for MHBG SMI funds.<sup>1</sup>

**11. Can MHBG funds be used for discharge planning from institutions?**

MHBG funds cannot be utilized for supportive case management services with the purpose of discharge planning for persons with SMI or SED who are incarcerated, with the exception of SED children in juvenile detention facilities.

**12. Can MHBG funds be used for flex fund purchases?**

Yes, MHBG funds can be used for flex fund purchases. Flex fund purchases must comply with Provider Manual 3.13.3-C ([http://azdhs.gov/bhs/provider/sec3\\_13.pdf](http://azdhs.gov/bhs/provider/sec3_13.pdf)).

For further information, please contact [GrantsManagement@azdhs.gov](mailto:GrantsManagement@azdhs.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> This restriction becomes effective 1/1/11. The T/RBHA may choose to continue currently established contracts allowing Room and Board until that date.