

NEW FUNDING ALERT

# Grants for Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances

FUNDER: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Center for Mental Health Services

**DUE DATE > March 21, 2023**

Link to Funding Opportunity:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/pdf/fy-23-cmhi-nofo.pdf>



**SAE Behavioral Health Consulting | [www.saebhc.com](http://www.saebhc.com)**

# PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide resources to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth, birth through age 21, at risk for or with serious emotional disturbances (SED), and their families.

This program supports the implementation, expansion, and integration of the System of Care (SOC) approach by creating sustainable infrastructure and services that are required as part of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families Program (also known as the Children's Mental Health Initiative or CMHI).

With this program, SAMHSA aims to provide mental health services to children and youth, from birth through age 21, at risk for or with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their families.

SAMHSA intends to prepare children and youth at risk for or with SED for successful transition to adulthood and assumption of adult roles and responsibilities

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# ELIGIBILITY

## Eligible Applicants:

- State governments and territories (i.e., the District of Columbia; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the Northern Mariana Islands; the Virgin Islands; Guam; American Samoa; the Republic of Palau; the Federated States of Micronesia; and the Republic of the Marshall Islands);
- Governmental units within political subdivisions of a state (e.g., county, city, town);
- Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations, as defined in Section 5304(b) and Section 5304(c) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
  
- FY 2023: Recipients who received funding under SM-20-007, SM-21-004, or SM-22-007 are not eligible to apply for funding under this NOFO.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# FUNDING LEVEL

- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 26 (3 awards for Tribal organizations)
- **Award Amount:**
  - \$1 million per year for counties & political subdivisions;
  - \$3 million per year for states.
- **Length of Project Period:** 5 years
- **Match or Cost Sharing Is Required**
  - For Years 1, 2, and 3, you must provide at least \$1 for each \$3 of federal funds. For Year 4, you must provide at least \$1 for each \$1 of Federal funds. The matching funds should be for the costs of activities carried out with the award and other activities by the institution to reduce mental health and substance use disorders. Non-federal contributions may be in cash or in-kind.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# REQUIRED APPROACH

**The population of focus is children and youth, from birth through age 21, at risk for or with serious emotional disturbance SED, and their families.**

- The CMHI program's activities are formulated based on the SOC approach. SOC is defined as a comprehensive spectrum of mental health and essential support services organized into a coordinated network to address and meet the varied needs of children, youth, and young adults at risk for or with SED, their families, and their caregivers.
- The aim of CMHI is to advance progress in developing a comprehensive SOC by concentrating on sustainable financing, cross-agency collaboration, the formation of policy and infrastructure, and the development and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed services and supports. This concentrated approach is necessary to ensure that children, youth, and young adults at risk for or with SED, and their families, receive effective services within their communities, and that providers collaborate to coordinate care in a family-friendly and culturally responsive manner.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

**Award recipients must use SAMHSA's funds to support direct services primarily, beginning in the project's 6<sup>th</sup> month. This includes the following activities:**

- Within four months of award, conduct a needs assessment to address gaps in service delivery for the children, youth, and young adults to be served by this project in the proposed geographic catchment area. The needs assessment must include the identification of racial and ethnic health disparities, and specialized cultural and linguistic needs.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Provide evidence-based and culturally appropriate mental health services to children, youth, and young adults with or at risk of SED/SMI, including those from diverse populations of Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality, and youth co-served across systems such as juvenile justice, child welfare systems, runaway youth, and youth experiencing homelessness.
- These services should include:
  - Diagnostic and evaluation services, including an assessment of substance use history, trauma history, risk for suicide, and general health conditions.
  - Outpatient services provided in a clinic, office, school, or other appropriate location, including individual, group, and family counseling, professional consultation, and review and management of medications.

# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- 24-hour mental health crisis emergency services, seven days per week;
- Intensive home-based outreach and case management services for children, youth, and young adults and their families when the service recipient is at imminent risk of out-of-home placement;
- Intensive day treatment services;
- Respite care services;
- Therapeutic foster care services, services in therapeutic foster family homes or individual therapeutic residential homes, and group homes caring for not more than 10 children, youth, and young adults;
- Transition from the child and youth service to the adult delivery system.



# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Identify and provide referral pathways to recovery support services (e.g., assistance with obtaining education/job skills necessary for employment, assistance obtaining employment or supported employment, and assistance with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) enrollment).
- Incorporate trauma- and grief informed care elements throughout all components of the SOC project, including screening for trauma and grief, trauma- and grief-focused treatment, and a trauma- and grief-informed approach to care and services.
- Implement services and supports to promote and sustain family and youth engagement and involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the SOC at the state and local levels (e.g., family and youth peer support, family and youth leadership development, mentoring, and youth-guided activities).

# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Implement services and supports to promote and sustain family and youth engagement and involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the SOC at the state and local levels (e.g., family and youth peer support, family and youth leadership development, mentoring, and youth-guided activities).
- Develop a sustainability plan that would include, but not be limited to, changes in policy and financing strategies to maintain and possibly expand behavioral health services and supports for youth when federal funding ends.
- Provide training to service providers in all aspects of system of care development and implementation, including evidence-based, practice-based, or community-defined interventions.

# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Develop new and/or maintain existing collaborative partnerships across child-serving agencies, providers, and programs (e.g., substance use, child welfare, juvenile justice, primary care, education, early childhood) to strengthen the delivery of services to children/youth at risk or with SED/SMI.
- Develop or enhance an existing governance structure/board that is responsible for decision-making at the participant and policy level with the ability to provide oversight and accountability for the SOC.
- Develop and implement suicide prevention and intervention approaches to: (1) identify children/youth at risk for suicide; and (2) intervene as needed to address the needs of a child/youth who was identified at risk for suicide (e.g., previous suicide attempts, suicidal ideation).

# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Demonstrate partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) serving underserved populations so they can be included in the system of care.
- Increase outreach and engagement strategies effective in diverse underserved populations to enroll more youth of color and sexual and gender minority youth in these programs.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Anticipated Start Date:
  - FY 2023: September 30, 2023
  - FY 2024: September 30, 2024
  - FY 2025: September 30, 2025
- **This NOFO is being issued as a standing funding announcement.** Applicants can apply for funding in any of the three project periods. Although an application may be submitted at any time in grants.gov in this three-year period, to be considered for funding for a given fiscal year, the application must be successfully submitted by the specified due date. If your application is not received by March 21st, it will be reviewed in the next funding cycle or you may elect to withdraw the application and resubmit an application.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



# STRATEGY

**Based on our experience, these are our recommendations.**

- We suggest that you carefully review the funding announcement and solidify MOUs with community providers (as applicable) and other stakeholders, including their roles and responsibilities.
- Review current data to determine if disparities exist among children, youth, and young adults with respect to access or outcomes.
- Review your evidence-based practices for effectiveness with the population of focus, including racial and cultural considerations.

# NEXT STEPS

## Helping you build toward your tomorrow.

SAE is available to collaborate with you to write the proposal, provide a review of your proposal, or to provide technical assistance in developing your program plan.

- Immediately validate that you have accounts in the System for Awards Management (SAM), Grants.gov, and era Commons.
- Create a table to assess your current level of implementation for each of the required activities and what you plan to expand or enhance with grant funding for each year of the funding period.
- Use this table to begin developing your staffing plan and program budget.
- Contact SAE for a free consultation to discuss this funding opportunity and your ideas for your proposal.

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)



WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST YOU & YOUR TEAM.  
Reach out today to schedule a no-cost consultation.



# CONTACT US

## SAE Behavioral Health Consulting

WEBSITE

[www.saebhc.com](http://www.saebhc.com)

EMAIL

[info@saebhc.com](mailto:info@saebhc.com)

PHONE

**(212) 684-4480**