



Ohio Department of Mental Health

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430

DATE: 2/18/09 NUMBER: C-02-09-03 ORIGINATOR & TITLE: Sandra Stephenson, Director

OFFICE:
Director

DISTRIBUTION:

Regional Hospitals Boards Provider Agencies Shareholder Organizations

SUBJECT:

Allocations Certification Critical Information Licensure
 MACSIS Medicaid MSPA Policy
 Procedure Other (specify):

TITLE OF CORRESPONDENCE: Access to assistance from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

CONTENT:

Last week, the State of Ohio launched www.recovery.ohio.gov, Ohio's interactive headquarters for all information regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the federal stimulus package. The purpose of this web site is to maximize the federal stimulus funds received and expended in Ohio through a transparent, consistent and efficient process. All mental health organizations in Ohio should access the web site and complete a simple form for each proposal or project of interest in the federal stimulus package. Once a project is submitted, it will be entered into a master database and then forwarded to the appropriate state entity. Those who have submitted forms regarding projects which may meet eligibility requirements will receive an email indicating where, when, and how to apply for funds.

Of special interest in the final bill was the inclusion of community mental health centers (to include, child mental health programs, psychosocial rehabilitation programs, mental health peer support programs, and mental health primary consumer-directed programs) in the definition of "health care provider" in the Act under Title XXX, "Health Information Technology and Quality." The final bill exceeds 1,000 pages. While this memo does not attempt to list all potential programs, the following were included in the stimulus package and may be of interest:

- Telemedicine and distance learning (US Department of Agriculture)
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (US Department of Commerce)
- Energy sustainability and efficiency (US Department of Energy)
- Comparative effectiveness research (US Department of Health and Human Services)
- Prevention and Wellness Fund (US Department of Health and Human Services)
- Homeless Assistance Grants (US Department of Housing and Urban Development)

The part of the federal stimulus package directing fiscal relief to the states such as enhanced federal match for the Medicaid program and allocations in the Department of Mental Health fiscal years 2010-2011 budget will be distributed through the allocation guidelines or contracts to alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services/community mental health (ADAMH/CMH) boards. In other words, these funds will be forwarded to the community through normal processes and completion of a form on the web site is not necessary.

I encourage all mental health organizations to frequent the web site (or sign-up on the front page for website update notifications) for any new information available. Our goal is to make sure that all potential fund applicants are treated equally and fairly and that everyone eligible has a chance to apply for funds. A Frequently Asked Questions option provides answers to questions of general interest on the site. Information about upcoming technical assistance options, important links to other sites and further updates will be posted regularly. Thank you for your interest in using the funds from the economic stimulus package to enhance the delivery of mental health services throughout Ohio.

REQUIRED ACTION:

Visit www.recovery.ohio.gov web site, sign up for e-mail updates and complete a separate form for each project or proposal of interest.

DATES FOR REQUIRED ACTION:

As soon as possible for projects or proposals other than funds that will be allocated through typical allocation or grant processes. Failure to submit information for a program or project in a timely manner through the web site may diminish your ability to access federal stimulus resources.

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