

**Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**  
**Expansion and Sustainability of Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance**

Short Title: Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)  
awards FY 2024 Applications due February 14, 2024  
year

Estimated Number of Awards: 26 with @ least 3 tribal  
Estimated Award Amounts: Up to \$3,000,000 per

Estimated Total Funding: FY 2024 \$30,444,272  
Length of Project: 4 years

Anticipated Start Date: September 30, 2024

**Purpose:** 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 and their families.

- The aim of CMHI is to advance progress in developing a comprehensive System of Care by concentrating on **sustainable funding, cross-agency collaboration, the formation of policy and infrastructure, and the development and implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed services and supports.**
- Encourages grantees to address disparity of services among underserved and minority populations
- Key personnel include a project director at least .5 FTE and a lead family coordinator at least .75 FTE

**Required Activities Every Awardee Must Implement**

- 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.
- Service should include diagnostic and evaluation services, including an assessment of substance use history, trauma history, risk of suicide, and general health conditions.
- Outpatient services in a clinic, office, or school.
- 24-hour mental health crisis emergency services, seven days per week.
- Intensive home-based outreach and case management services for risk of out-of-home intervention.
- Intensive day treatment services.
- Respite care services.
- Therapeutic foster care services and group homes caring for no more than 10 children, youth and young adults
- Transition from child and youth service to adult delivery system.
- Identify and provide referral pathways to recovery support services.
- Incorporate trauma- and grief-informed care elements throughout all components of the SOC project.
- 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.
- Develop a sustainability plan that would include 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 a system of care development and implementation, including evidence-based, practice-based, or community-defined interventions.
- Develop new and/or maintain existing collaborative partnerships across child-serving agencies and providers to strengthen the delivery of services to children/youth at risk or with SED/SMI.
- Develop or enhance an existing governance structure 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 as at risk for suicide.
- 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.

- If selected, conduct a needs assessment to address gaps in service delivery for children, youth and young adults, including the identification of racial and ethnic health disparities.

### **Using Evidence-Based Practices**

- Awards for the provision of services are intended to fund services or practices that have a demonstrated evidence base and that are appropriate for the population(s) of focus.
- Identify the evidence-based practice(s) and/or interventions that are evidence-informed and/or culturally promising that are appropriate or can be adapted to meet the needs of your specific population(s) of focus.
- Must discuss the population(s) for which the practice(s) has (have) been shown to be effective and document that it is (they are) appropriate for your population(s) of focus.
- Must also address how these interventions will improve outcomes and address how you will monitor and ensure fidelity of EBPs and other appropriate interventions.

### **Data Collection/Performance Measurement**

Collect and report certain data to meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results (GPRA) Modernization Act of 2010. Must document a plan for data collection and reporting in your Project Narrative.

Expected to collect and report on the following data

- The number of policy changes completed as a result of the grant.
- The number of people in the mental health and related workforce trained in mental-related practices/activities as a result of the grant.
- The number of consumers/family members who provide mental health-related practices/activities as a result of the grant.
- The number of people receiving evidence-based mental health-related services as a result of the grant.
- The number of individuals contacted through program outreach efforts.
- The number and percentage of individuals receiving mental health or related services after referral.

Use funds to implement high-quality programs, practices, and policies that are recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and equity-based to improve behavioral health.

- Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.
- Trauma-informed Approaches recognize and intentionally respond to the lasting adverse effects of experiencing traumatic events.
- Behavioral health equity is the right to access high-quality and affordable health care services and supports for all populations regardless of the individual's race, age, ethnicity, gender (including gender identity), disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or geographical location.
- Language Access Provision recipients of Federal financial assistance must take reasonable steps to make their programs, services, and activities accessible by eligible persons with limited English Proficiency federal financial assistance must take reasonable steps to make their programs, services, and activities accessible to eligible persons with limited English proficiency

### **Cost Sharing and Matching Requirements**

- Must provide matching funds (directly or through donations from public or private entities) from non-federal contributions. For Years 1, 2, and 3, you must provide at least \$1 for each \$3 of federal funds. For Year 4, must provide at least \$1 for each \$1 of Federal funds.