

Mental Health Innovation Grant Program

Mental Health Innovation Grant Program is a new grant program intended to improve access to and the quality of community-based, outpatient mental health services and reduce the number of people admitted to regional treatment centers and community behavioral health hospitals. Part of Minnesota's 2017 legislative package, funds for this grant program come from revenue captured from the county share of treatment costs for people receiving care at Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center (RTC) and the Community Behavioral Health Hospitals (CBHH).

An RFP will be issued soon

A competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process will be published before the end of calendar year 2017. \$2.171 million will be made available. Grant awards and contracting will be executed the beginning of calendar year 2018 and are intended to cover a two-year period. Grantees will be challenged to begin new service/support formulation and implementation immediately.

The projects

This project will add and develop services/supports to Minnesota's Mental Health System such as:

- Short-term and critical access centers and/or supportive living environments
- Collaborative efforts between crisis teams and hospitals
- Community support programs that integrate acupuncturists, art/music therapists, cultural consultants/experts, certified peer specialists, certified yoga instructors, healing touch and Reiki practitioners, massage therapists, mental health practitioners/professionals, physical/occupational therapists, prescribers, traditional and/or indigenous healers and practices, vocational coaches, etc.

Proposals will integrate **cultural, local** and **regional** aspects important to/for people and families to achieve and maintain equanimity, health and wellness in their own community. New and expanded mental health services/supports will identify prevention and postvention strategies that connect to peoples' **holistic** ways of healing and recovering from mental illness.

The grantees

Eligible applications include Counties, Tribes, mental health service providers, hospitals, or community partnerships.

Half of all grants will be awarded to eligible applicants in the metropolitan area and half to eligible applicants outside the metropolitan area.

Grantees will be selected by a diverse, integrative community panel representative of community members, providers and services-users. The community panel that selects grantees will inform the (future) design of an advisory panel that will provide accountability, direction and oversight to grantees' projects and based upon service-users' experiences and evaluative reports of program measures/outcomes. Data gathered will inform the direction of the overall project and report to the Minnesota legislature on December 1, 2019.

Key informants that will shape the design and determine the successful implementation of the project include RTCs and CBHHs' personnel and people accessing these services. Awards will be based upon a **demonstrable commitment to equity, under-served communities, multi-disciplinary collaborations** and **visionary ways** of helping all adults living with mental illness reduce psychiatric emergencies and entrance into RTCs and CBHHs. Awardees will develop and/or enhance mental health services, which promote **access, inclusion**, improve **quality** and the overall experience of service-users and their family of choice.

For more information see [Minnesota Statutes, section 245.4662](#) and/or contact amanda.calmbacher@state.mn.us, 651-503-4050.