

# Block Grant Overview



Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Division of Care and Treatment Services

# Block Grant Overview

- The block grants are grants given to states to allow states to address their unique behavioral health issues.
  - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG)
  - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)
  
- Purpose
  - “States will use the block grant program for prevention, treatment, recovery supports, and other services that will supplement services covered by Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance.”

# What are the block grants?

- The block grants are the principal federal discretionary program that supports community-based services.
  - SABG: Prevention, intervention, harm reduction, and treatment of substance use disorders
  - MHBG: Adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances
- Flexible source of funding that states can use to meet the unique needs of their community-based systems.
- Block grant funds are blended with other federal or state funds or are allocated directly to community-based provider agencies.

# Block Grant Overview

SABG and MHBG funds are directed toward four purposes

- ▣ Treatment and services for uninsured
- ▣ Treatment and services not covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance
- ▣ Primary prevention (SABG Only)
- ▣ Collection of performance and outcome data

# Federal Statutes

- Title 42 – The Public Health and Welfare (300x)  
MHBG is to provide comprehensive community mental health services to individuals who are either adults with a serious mental illness or children with a serious emotional disturbance.
- Children's set-aside  
States are required to not spend less than the amount expended in actual state fiscal year 1994.
- Maintenance of effort  
States must maintain expenditures for community mental health services, not less than the average of the two preceding years.

# Federal Statutes

- ❑ 10% set-aside for early intervention for early serious mental illness
  - Coordinated Specialty Care
- ❑ 5% crisis set-aside
  - Evidence-based crisis systems
- ❑ Limitation on administrative expenses
  - The state will not expend more than 5 percent of the grant for administrative expenses.

# Federal Statutes

- ❑ 20% set-aside on primary prevention
- ❑ 5% on treatment services for pregnant women and women with dependent children
- ❑ Preference in admission to pregnant women who seek or are referred for treatment services

# Block Grant Restrictions

The SABG and MHBG can't be used to:

- ❑ Provide inpatient services.
- ❑ Make cash payments to intended recipients of health services.
- ❑ Purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) any building or other facility, or purchase major medical equipment.
- ❑ Satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-federal funds as a condition for the receipt of federal funds.
- ❑ Provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or nonprofit private entity.



# Block Grant Planning

- ❑ Needs assessment
- ❑ Guidance from the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) and State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)
- ❑ Law: federal and state statutes
- ❑ Guidance from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- ❑ Current system capacity
- ❑ Department of Health Services and Division of Care and Treatment Services priorities

# Wisconsin's Block Grant Awards

## MHBG

- ▣ FY 2019 – \$11,896,020
- ▣ FY 2020 – \$12,030,520
- ▣ FY 2021 – \$12,408,047

## SABG

- ▣ FY 2019 – \$27,530,986
- ▣ FY 2020 – \$27,582,606
- ▣ FY 2021 – \$27,200,570