Michigan Awarded Two Federal Grants to Strengthen Behavioral Health Services During COVID-19 Crisis

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LANSING, MICH. As evidence mounts that the COVID-19 pandemic is taking an emotional toll on Michiganders, help is on the way in the form of two federal grants awarded to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA).

One grant was awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The other was awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in partnership with SAMHSA, with funds distributed through the Michigan State Police. Together, the two grants provide nearly $2.5 million to better address mental health needs during the COVID-19 disaster.

“We are grateful to SAMHSA and FEMA for recognizing Michigan’s urgent need for expanded behavioral health services at this time,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “These grants open up new pathways for trained professionals to help residents struggling with symptoms of mental illness and psychological trauma exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.”
The SAMHSA Emergency COVID-10 grant will provide BHDDA with $2 million to assist Michiganders living with mental health and/or substance use disorders, as well as those with less severe mental illness, including health care professionals. Funding is to be used within 16 months. To optimize the grant opportunity, MDHHS will partner with five Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) that were identified as having the greatest need relative to the COVID-19 crisis:

- Au Sable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (serving Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda counties)
- Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
- Genesee Health System
- HealthWest (serving Muskegon County)
- Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority

SAMHSA grant funding will allow these CMHSPs to hire and train much-needed staff, provide mental health screening, expand telehealth services and create a variety of programs to help patients manage depression, anxiety, trauma and grief related to COVID-19.

A second grant, the Immediate Services Program: Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) grant, will provide BHDDA with $372,000 to roll out a short-term emergency program with four main components:

1. Crisis counseling from CCP-trained counselors accessed via the MDHHS COVID-19 hotline.

2. Highly specialized outreach to the Detroit metropolitan area (the region most heavily impacted by COVID-19), offering crisis counseling to families with children, seniors, first responders, health care providers and those with racial or ethnic health disparities.
3. CCP training of volunteers.
4. Emotional support for low-acuity COVID-19 patients living in state-supplied isolation housing.

CCP grant funding is to be used within 60 days. However, BHDDA plans to pursue a secondary CCP grant that, if awarded, would allow Michigan to extend its CCP program an additional nine months.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Coronavirus Disease 2019

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- Report Welfare Fraud
- Report WIC Fraud
- MDHHS Policy Manuals
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- MI Bridges: Apply for Assistance & Manage Your Account
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- Medicaid Provider Manual
- Verify Health Professional License
- Prescription Drug & Opioid Abuse Prevention

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Stay Smart. Stay Safe. @MichiganHHS reports today, June 17, 2021, 172 new COVID-19 cases & 20* deaths. For * details bit.ly/2KcnkrO. Michigan's total cases are now 893,002 & 19,598 deaths. Find the latest data & #COVID19 news at

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