## Mental Health Block Grant

### Purpose
The Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) is a federal formula grant awarded to each state based on a combination of population and other economic factors. The MHBG is administered by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is managed by the DHS, Division of Mental Health and Disability Services.

The MHBG is required by federal statute to provide comprehensive, community-based mental health services to adults with serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance and to monitor progress in implementing a comprehensive, community-based mental health system. Stated are allowed to set aside up to 5 percent of the annual allocation for administrative costs.

### Who Is Helped
Iowa law required that 95 percent of the MHBG be used for eligible community mental health services to carry out the plan submitted to, and approved by, SAMHSA. The legislation requires that providers use the MHBG funds for staff training or services to adults with a serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance. Of the 95 percent of the MHBG allocated to eligible providers, 70 percent is required to be distributed to accredited community mental health centers (CMHC).

### Services
CMHC use the MHBG funds for the following purposes:

- Community-based mental health services for adults with serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance not otherwise covered by Medicaid or third party insurance;
- Integrated Health Home care coordination for adults with a serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance who are not eligible for Medicaid;
- Staff training in evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, parent-Child Interactive Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing;
- Development of trauma-informed service systems;
- Mental Health First Aid training;
- First Episode Psychosis (FEP) programs.

The remaining 25 percent is retained by the Department for projects and programs of benefit to the mental health system, including:

- Required data collection;
- Consumer stipends for mental health education;
- Peer support and family peer support training;
- The Office of Consumer Affairs;
- Support of the Mental Health Planning Council.

### Goals & Strategies
Goal: Promote choice for people with disabilities.
Strategy: Assure Iowans with mental health conditions can be effectively served in Iowa and have effective community-based options.

The goals and strategies identified in the FFY16-17 MHBG Plan include:

- **Improve the system of care for children with mental health needs and their families by improving interdepartmental coordination of children’s mental health services and creation of a plan for children’s mental health crisis services.**
- **Increase access to quality peer support services through increased training opportunities for persons wishing to become certified peer support and family peer support specialists.**
✓ **Increase access to regional crisis services for Iowans experiencing a mental health-related crisis.**

### Funding Sources

The MHBG is funded entirely through the federal allocation.

- The FFY16 MHBG allocation is $4,067,863.
- The FFY16 allocation includes an increase of $381,568 from the FFY15 allocation of $3,686,277. SAMHSA increased the amount of each state’s allocation to allow for 10 percent of the MHBG to be set aside for FEP programs.
- In the most recent fiscal year (FY2016), DHS had 33 contracts with a total of $4,323,076 committed to those contracts.
- The state has two years to expend each year’s MHBG allocation.

### Legal Basis

**Federal:**
- Title XIX, Part B, Subpart II and Subpart III of the Public health Service Act and Title 42, Chapter 6A, Subchapter XVI of the United States Code.

**State:**
- 2015 Iowa Acts, Chapter 130, Section 2.

#### Projected Distribution of MHBG Funds in SFY17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMHC (70%)</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Mental Health Providers (25%)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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