

DSH Diversion RFA Round 2

Initial County Questions

January 28, 2019

FUNDING AND CONTRACTS

- *What can be used towards a county's funding match for this program?*

A county match can be in-kind, cash, or a combination of both. In either case, cash or the funding source for in-kind matches must be local county funds such as MHSA and 1991 Realignment. Time spent planning for your diversion program can be counted towards the match.

- *What funding cannot be used towards a county's match?*

The purpose of the DSH Diversion Program funding is to fill any funding gaps that aren't being met by other state and federal funding sources. As such, no state or federal dollars may be counted towards a county match for this program. This includes Medi-Cal reimbursements, state MHSA grant funds or other state funding sources, and federal dollars.

- *Are Diversion funds ongoing or one-time?*

Diversion funding is one-time funding.

- *How and when will Diversion funds be awarded to counties?*

All Diversion funds will be disbursed to counties through contracts established with DSH. Funds will be released over the course of multiple installments as counties meet specific benchmarks included in the contract, including funds to support initial program implementation activities.

DSH has three years (until 2020-21) to obligate funds and five years (until 2022-23) to disburse funds. The timeline for funding release to a county is dependent on the start date of the county's contract with DSH.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- *Can a county directly utilize the consultants DSH has contracted with to assist in program development?*

The consultants DSH is currently contracting with will be providing technical assistance to counties through any technical assistance sessions organized by DSH.

HOUSING

- *Can Diversion funds be used for capital improvements related to residential housing?*

Diversion funds can be used in this way as long as the housing in question is for clients who meet the criteria established for the DSH Diversion Funding Program.

RISK ASSESSMENTS AND SCREENING

- *How does a county determine who is “at risk of being deemed IST?”*

There is not a specific definition for “at risk of being deemed IST.” It will be up to counties to establish guidelines that create this definition for the target population.

General Population

- *Can out-of-county residents be diverted, and can Medi-Cal reimbursements be collected by the diverting county?*

Yes, out-of-county residents are eligible for diversion in the county where they are arrested. If a client accesses Medi-Cal funded services and is placed in designated housing in the diversion county, the client’s designated Medi-Cal county of responsibility should be changed to the county providing diversion. Alternatively, the diversion county can coordinate with the home county regarding treatment and cost of care for the client.

Research and Program Evaluation

- *What is the history of the DSH/UC Davis research collaborative and how can my county participate?*

The UC Davis research team has maintained a collaborative research relationship with Department of State Hospitals for 17 years. A 10-year project focusing on individuals found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) has increased the state's understanding of this populations' characteristics and the factors that lead to IST commitments, which in turn has led to the state-funded diversion effort. Because of the UCD team's expertise in extracting relevant information from records, they are excited to help counties better understand the clinical and criminogenic characteristics of county jail diversion participants.

Procedural details of the research project would be developed to make the process as easy as possible for counties but would likely include a scanning of relevant clinical and legal documents for research review.

Other Questions

- *Would activating a diversion program also count towards Laura’s Law implementation?*

From what DSH has learned about Laura’s Law, it doesn’t appear that Diversion implementation could also be used as Laura’s Law implementation primarily because of the difference in how a person becomes involved in each type of program. However, we are continuing to look at how Diversion and Laura’s Law may intersect or run parallel to each other in the counties.