



DSRIP Statewide Investments
Investments in Community-Based Training and Recruitment Program
Community Mental Health Center Behavioral Health Recruitment Fund

Program Overview

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (the League) is administering the MassHealth Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Statewide Investment programs focused on the community-based primary care and behavioral health workforce and community health center readiness on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) following a competitive procurement. The Statewide Investments funding stream is one component of MassHealth's \$1.8 billion DSRIP program authorized under the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver and comprises eight initiatives over the five-year DSRIP program. The community-focused primary care and behavioral health workforce programs and the community health center readiness program will support Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), Community Partners (CPs), and Community Service Agencies (CSAs) by building and strengthening their capacity to better coordinate care, improve health outcomes, and reduce the total cost of care (TCOC) for MassHealth members.

The Investments in Community-based Training and Recruitment Program aims to expand the pool of providers committed and well prepared to care for MassHealth members in community settings. The program accomplishes this through two funding streams – 1) Family Medicine and Nurse Practitioner Residency Training, and 2) the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Behavioral Health (BH) Recruitment Fund.

The CMHC BH Recruitment Fund component of the Investments in Community-based Training and Recruitment Program aims to increase the number of psychiatrists and nurse practitioners (NPs) with prescribing privileges working at community mental health centers (CMHCs). The program accomplishes this goal by providing recruitment packages to CMHCs to enable them to overcome some of the obstacles known to deter psychiatrists and NPs from taking on roles in community settings.

The CMHC BH Recruitment Fund will support approximately 15 psychiatrist recruitment packages and seven NP recruitment packages over three years. Please note that the actual number of recruitment packages will depend on the mix of applications received and funded. The recruitment package for psychiatrists will total \$150,000 over two years. Recruitment packages for psychiatrists will comprise up to \$50,000 per recruited psychiatrist to support student loan repayment and up to \$50,000 per recruited psychiatrist per year over two years to lead special projects related to accountable care. The recruitment package for nurse practitioners with prescribing privileges will total \$110,000 over two years. Recruitment packages for recruited nurse practitioners with prescribing privileges will comprise up to \$30,000 per recruited nurse practitioner to support student loan repayment and up to \$40,000 per recruited nurse practitioner per year over two years to lead special projects related to accountable care. All providers accepting loan repayment through the CMHC BH Recruitment Fund must commit to practicing in a CMHC for up to four years.

Please note that CMHCs that plan to leverage recruitment funds to: (1) advance the integration of mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services within their organization, and/or; (2) address a particular cultural competency need will be prioritized for funding.



Eligibility

The CMHC BH Recruitment Fund is open to CMHCs that are seeking to recruit psychiatrists and nurse practitioners with prescribing privileges. For the purposes of this program, CMHCs include any organization included on the [Eligible Organizations List](#). Please be sure to confirm your organization's eligibility before starting your application.

Selection Criteria

All applications to the CMHC BH Recruitment Fund will be reviewed by a committee with representation from MassHealth, the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), the League, and other experts in the field of community-based behavioral health. Selection criteria will include, but not be limited to: expressed need of the organization in regards to addressing recruitment needs specific to behavioral health clinical providers; the quality and feasibility of the organization's plan for retaining new providers; and the quality of the special project examples outlined in the application, including their feasibility, relevance to identified organization and/community needs, and potential to advance the organization in its transition to an accountable care environment.. Selection criteria also include geographic distribution of awards and the availability of funds.

Please note that CMHCs that plan to leverage recruitment funds to: (1) advance the integration of mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services within their organization, and/or; (2) address a particular cultural competency need will be prioritized for funding. Applicants should be sure to clearly communicate how recruitment funds will advance their efforts to better integrate mental health/SUD treatment services and/or address a particular cultural competency need.

Application Requirements

To be considered for the CMHC BH Recruitment Fund managed by the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, the following materials are required:

- CMHC BH Recruitment Fund Program Application (available [HERE](#))
 - Section A: Completed Organization Information
 - Section B: Completed Vacancy and Staffing Information for Site
 - Section C: Attached Statement of Organization Need
 - Section D: Attached Organization Retention Plan
 - Section E: CMHC Special Project Descriptions

There is no limit on the number of recruitment packages an applicant may request. However, a compelling case must be made for each recruitment package requested.

Only complete applications received by the application due date will be considered for awards.

Review Process

Due to limited funding and anticipated high demand, the DSRIP Statewide Investments CMHC BH Recruitment Fund is likely to be highly competitive. The review process includes: (1) notification to the applicant of receipt of application; (2) notification to the applicant of any missing or incomplete information; (3) notification to the applicant of the review committee's decision on the application; and for successful applicants (4) dissemination



of further information about how to implement the awarded recruitment packages. If applications are incomplete on the due date, the applicant will be notified of the missing materials, but the application will not be reviewed. Such applicants will be encouraged to apply again to the next application cycle.

Implementation

Detailed guidance will be provided to successful applicants regarding the implementation of awarded recruitment packages. Generally speaking, no funds will be disbursed until the CMHC has notified the League of a new hire supported by the CMHC BH Recruitment Fund. The CMHC will have the opportunity to work closely with the League throughout the recruitment process to ensure that all recruited providers and associated special project plans meet the requirements of the program.

Please note: All recruitment slots awarded to CMHCs must be utilized by December 31, 2019.

Student loan repayment:

In order to be eligible for the student loan repayment component of the CMHC BH Recruitment Fund, potential new hires must meet the following criteria:

- Psychiatrists must have outstanding educational debt and be willing to commit to working full-time or part-time (as defined in Attachment A) in the identified CMHC for a minimum of four years. The program will provide up to \$50,000 in student loan repayment funds per recruited provider over a two-year period. For psychiatrists engaged in part-time practice, the total loan repayment amount will be pro-rated accordingly.
- Prescribing nurse practitioners must have outstanding educational debt and be willing to commit to working full-time or part-time (as defined in Attachment A) in the identified CMHC for a minimum of four years. The program will provide up to \$30,000 in student loan repayment funds per recruited providers over a two-year period. For nurse practitioners engaged in part-time practice, the total loan repayment amount will be pro-rated accordingly.

Please note: Any service obligation to the National Health Service Corp, the MDPH State Loan Repayment Program, or other loan forgiveness program must be completed in order to be eligible for this program.

All recruited providers accepting student loan repayment from the CMHC BH Recruitment Fund must complete student loan repayment forms and provide associated student loan documentation to the League. Upon the League's review and approval of these materials, the recruited provider will be required to enter into a contract with the League that obligates them to practice at the CMHC for up to four years in exchange for student loan repayment. The League will disburse funds directly to student loan servicers on behalf of all recruited providers that satisfactorily complete these steps.

Please note: Attachment A defines full-time/part-time practice for the purposes of this program. Attachment B defines the types of loans eligible for repayment under this program.



Special projects:

CMHCs are expected to partner closely with their recruited provider(s) to identify a special project that matches well with the provider's unique professional goals and interests. In most cases, special projects will be drawn from the list of potential special projects included in the CMHC's application. However, CMHCs and providers may also develop a new project idea as long as the new project clearly addresses an identified organization and/or community need and advances the organization's transition to an accountable care environment. More details about special project eligibility can be found in Attachment C.

All special projects must be approved by MassHealth and the League prior to the disbursement of any funds. The CMHC and recruited provider will be required to submit a detailed special project proposal that outlines project goals and objectives and includes a work plan, budget, and description of the need for the project and its anticipated impact. Specific guidance as to the format of special project proposals will be provided to successful applicants upon notification of award. MassHealth and the League will either approve the special project based on the proposal or request additional clarification or details.

The CMHC and the recruited provider will have up to six months after the provider's start date to submit a special project proposal to the League. This extended window is intended to allow new providers sufficient time to gain the understanding of the CMHC's community and patient population and form the trusting relationships with colleagues that are typically both pre-requisites for successful projects. The first year of special project funds (up to \$50,000 depending on the recruited provider's full-time or part-time status) will be disbursed directly to the CMHC upon MassHealth/League approval of the special project proposal.

The second year of special project funding will be dependent upon successful completion of year one project goals and MassHealth/League approval of a detailed plan for year two.

All CMHC BH Recruitment Fund applications are due July 31st by 5pm to the email address provided below.

Question and Answer period for CMHC BH Recruitment Fund will be ending on Friday, July 13th. All questions must be submitted to Statewide Investments Inbox (StatewideInvestments@massleague.org) by 2pm on Friday, July 13th - all questions submitted after will not be answered.

Contact Information:

Alexis Murray
Director, Primary Care Workforce Initiatives
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
DSRIP Statewide Investments
40 Court Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 426-2225
Email: StatewideInvestments@massleague.org



Attachment A

DSRIP Statewide Investments Investments in Community-based Training and Recruitment Program Community Mental Health Center Behavioral Health Recruitment Fund

ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES

Eligible disciplines are defined as psychiatrists and nurse practitioners with prescribing privileges.

DEFINITION OF FULL/PART TIME PRACTICE

Full-time clinical practice is a full-time equivalent between 80% and 100%. Full-time clinicians will be required to maintain a minimum of 6 clinical sessions (based on 4-hour sessions) or 24 hours of direct on-site patient care per week or time seeing patients. Case management time is NOT included in the 24 clinical-hour required minimum.

Part-time clinical practice is a full-time equivalent below 80% and not less than 60%. Part-time clinicians will be required to maintain a minimum of 5 clinical sessions (based on 4-hour sessions) or 20 hours of direct on-site patient care per week or time seeing patients. Case management time is NOT included in the 20 clinical-hour required minimum. On-call time may not offset weekly work hours in the office. Please note that on-site and on-call requirements do not apply to clinicians working in ESPs. For psychiatrists, awards are prorated to a maximum of up to \$40,000 for a four-year commitment. For nurse practitioners with prescribing privileges, awards are prorated to a maximum of up to \$30,000 for a four-year commitment.

**Please note that special project funding is expected to support a reduction in clinical sessions for psychiatrists and nurse practitioners recruited for both full-time and part-time clinical practice. For example, a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner recruited for a part-time role may reduce his or her clinical sessions to fewer than 5 clinical sessions per week in order to plan and lead special project work associated with this program.*



Attachment B

DSRIP Statewide Investments Investments in Community-based Training and Recruitment Program Community Mental Health Center Behavioral Health Recruitment Fund

DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE LOANS

Funds awarded by the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers to participants through this DSRIP Statewide Investments CMHC Behavioral Health Recruitment Fund will be applied to the principal, interest and related expenses of Government (Federal, State, or local) and commercial loans obtained by the participant for:

- a. Tuition and required fees for schools for undergraduate or graduate education leading to a degree qualifying the participant to serve as a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner with prescribing privileges.
- b. Reasonable and related education expenses – including fees, books, supplies, educational equipment and materials, related clinical travel not exceeding standard costs.
- c. Reasonable and related living expenses – costs of room and board, transportation and commuting expenses not exceeding standard student costs.

Qualified Educational Loans

Educational loans qualified for the loan repayment program will have been made by government or commercial entities for the above listed purposes supporting the applicant in completing academic and professional training leading to service as a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner with prescribing privileges. Documentation must be provided showing evidence that loans were made at the time that related education was received.

If an eligible educational loan is consolidated or refinanced with other non-education debt, the loan will not be eligible for loan repayment. Paid loan amounts are not eligible.

Related Definitions

Commercial Loans – Eligible commercial loans include loans made by banks, credit unions, savings and loan associations, financial institutions, credit institutions, insurance companies, and schools which are subject to supervision and examination as lenders by either an agency of the United States or of the State in which the lender has its principal place of business.

Government Loans – Eligible government loans include loans authorized to be made by Federal, State, county or city agencies and entities for the purpose of educational support.

Academic Institution Loans – Loans made by the educational institution conferring a degree qualifying the participant to serve as a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner with prescribing privileges.

Definitions of Ineligible Loan Types

Ineligible loans are those that do not directly relate to a person's educational experience. Some examples of ineligible loans include but are not limited to:

Credit Card Loans – loans taken out by the applicant through the usage of a private credit card.

Refinanced Personal Property Loans – loans taken out by the applicant through refinancing any type of personal property (home, car, etc.).



Attachment C

DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (“League”) will accept special project proposals for the Community Mental Health Center Behavioral Health Recruitment Fund that fall into one of the following categories:

A. **Special projects:**

Time limited activity that is of interest to the clinician and will enhance the services or operations of the CMHC. The time period can be more intensive for a short period (for example full time for 6-8 weeks) or less intensive over the year (8 hours per week for 12 months). Projects need to be structured within a value-based environment, examples include: innovative enhancement of primary care/behavioral health integration, value-based health care delivery research projects, development/implementation efforts for services addressing social determinants of health, and development/implementation efforts for training clinical leaders on improving member engagement in a team-based model of care. Please note that training associated with development and implementation of a special project initiative may also be included as a budget expense.

B. **Mini Fellowships:**

Time limited activity that is of interest to the clinician and will enhance/expand the services the CMHC may provide to the member population or the management capacity of the CMHC, especially in regards to accountable care. The time period can be more intensive for a short period (full time for a month) or less intensive over the year (8 hours per week for 12 months). Examples might include (but need not be limited to): training in data analytics, training in a particular area or areas of cultural competency, training specific to substance use treatment approaches, and so on.

Funds awarded by the DSRIP Statewide Investments Community Mental Health Center Behavioral Health Recruitment Fund may be applied to support:

- Salary, taxes and fringe benefits for the provider
- Tuition or other program fees (see details above)
- Clinical coverage expenses
- Administrative and capital expenses beyond allowable overhead and equipment expenses (see above budget guidance for limitations)

Funds may not be used for lost revenue except in the case of salary replacement for the lead provider and, if applicable, for other members of the project team.