



Frequently Asked Questions: Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals¹

1. For fiscal year 2018, will grants be awarded to community collaboratives that represent a county with a population of 250,000 or more and less than 250,000?

Answer: Per Senate Bill (S.B.) 292, for fiscal year 2018, grants may solely be awarded to community collaboratives that represent a county with a population of 250,000 or more.

In fiscal year 2019, grants will be distributed to community collaboratives that represent a county with a population of 250,000 or more and less than 250,000.

2. How is a community collaborative defined?

Answer: Per S.B. 292, a community collaborative is defined as including the following:

- A county;
- A local mental health authority (LMHA) that operates in the county; and
- Each hospital district, if any, located in the county.

Note 1: A community collaborative may include other local entities designated by the collaboratives members.

Note 2: Additionally, a Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) is not specified in the legislation as a required entity in the collaborative, but, for the purpose of this grant, LMHA is synonymous with LBHA.

3. Does the Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals require matching funds?

Answer: Yes, the community collaborative must provide matching funds from non-state sources in a total amount at least equal to:

- 50 percent of the grant amount if the collaborative includes a county with a population of less than 250,000;

¹ Authorizing Legislation: Senate Bill 292, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 and the 2018-19 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (Article IX, Section 18.30, Contingency for SB 292).

- 100 percent of the grant amount if the collaborative includes a county with a population of 250,000 or more; and
- the percentage of the grant amount required for the largest county included in the collaborative, if the collaborative includes more than one county.

Note: To raise the required non-state sourced funds for match, a community collaborative may seek and receive gifts, grants, or donations from any person.

4. Is in-kind match allowable?

Answer: Though not explicitly stated in S.B. 292, per the Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) Contract Oversight and Support Section, in-kind match is permissible.

5. For fiscal year 2018, what is the deadline for community collaboratives to submit petitions for grants to HHSC?

Answer: Per S.B. 292, for each state fiscal year, for which a community collaborative seeks a grant, the collaborative must submit a petition to HHSC no later than the 30th day of that fiscal year.

In light of the natural disaster, Hurricane Harvey, the deadline has been extended. For fiscal year 2018, petitions must be received by November 1, 2017 at 12:00 a.m.

6. May community collaboratives utilize grant funds to implement competency restoration programs, specifically, outpatient competency restoration and jail-based competency restoration?

Answer: Per S.B. 292, an acceptable use of grant funds is the establishment of alternatives to competency restoration in a state hospital, including outpatient competency restoration, inpatient competency restoration in a setting other than a state hospital, or jail-based competency restoration.

7. I represent an LMHA that covers a multiple county area. None of the counties that represent my local service area (LSA) have a population of 250,000 or more. May I join counties in my LSA to meet the 250,000 or more population requirement to petition HHSC for grant funds in fiscal year 2018?

Answer: No, you may not join counties in your LSA to meet the 250,000 or more population requirement to petition HHSC for funds in fiscal year 2018.



You will be eligible to petition HHSC for a grant under S.B. 292 in fiscal year 2019.

8. S.B. 292 specifies that for each state fiscal year for which a community collaborative seeks a grant, the collaborative must submit a petition to the commission not later than the 30th day of that fiscal year. Does this mean that a community collaborative awarded funding in fiscal year 2018 will have to re-petition HHSC for funding in fiscal year 2019? If so, when are petitions due for fiscal year 2019 funding?

Answer 10.a: Yes.

Answer 10.b: October 1, 2018.