

This serves as a response to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Notice of Funding for State COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts within the public mental health system. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Bureau of Mental Health Services (BMHS) serves as the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) and therefore will be the applicant for this grant opportunity. The following narrative and budget outlines the proposed expenditures of the \$173,152 grant.

New Hampshire's mental health system includes 10 private, non-profit community mental health centers (CMHCs) providing comprehensive evidence-based behavioral health and rehabilitation services to people with serious mental illness (SMI), youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and new or early SMI (eSMI) in their region. Services include a comprehensive array of community based services such as Assertive Community Treatment, supported employment, supported housing, crisis services, early intervention programs, case management, peer support services, and medication management. The impacts of the pandemic have created new and exacerbated symptoms of mental distress such as depression, anxiety, trauma, and grief. In New Hampshire alone, CMHCs have seen an approximate 20% increased inflow of people having new crises in this pandemic environment. Access to timely community based services is essential to the health and wellbeing of New Hampshire children, youth, adults, and families.

The 10 CMHCs have been responding to and mitigating the impact of the epidemic. In response, they have ramped up their ability to provide telephone and video-based assessments and treatment to individuals across the state. Additionally, they have reorganized their services to enable safe in-person assessment and treatment when necessary, minimizing contagion by using CDC-recommended procedures. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic CMHC services hovered at a 50/50 ratio of in-person to virtual (video/phone) based supports provided. In the month of July of 2021, the ratio of in-person to virtual services was at 70/30 ratio, 70% being in-person. However, CMHCs need additional support to continue to safely provide these critical in-person services.

Ensuring the health and safety of CMHC staff and clients is of paramount importance. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a first line of defense to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In concurrence with social distancing, PPE decreases the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 for those who continue to provide in-person services to the States' most vulnerable citizens.

In an effort to continue providing in-person services, New Hampshire proposes to expend the award allocation by infusing CMHCs with PPE. The SMHA will partner with the DHHS, Division of Public Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (BEPRR) to distribute PPE to the network of New Hampshire's 10 CMHCs. The BEPRR, coordinates the NH DHHS disaster emergency response efforts and houses three critical public health response programs: The Disaster Behavioral Health Response Program, The National Hospital Preparedness Program, and the New Hampshire Metropolitan Medical Response System. (<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/esu/index.htm>)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the tasks of the BEPRR team was to manage the distribution of PPE supplies to medical and other facilities providing essential services to the public. The SMHA will utilize this existing infrastructure and processes to most expeditiously and efficiently purchase and distribute PPE to CMHC mental health providers for use by staff and clients.

The SMHA will work with the BEPRR to create a unique online order form specifically for this grant award. The PPE request form will contain the necessary information to process an order, inclusive of the CMHCs name, address, point of contact, email, phone number, and pick-up date. Once the order is placed by the CMHC, the BEPRR will enter the information into an inventory tracking system which has already been developed and is currently in production. Once approved by the SMHA, orders will be sent to the BEPRR warehouse team for processing. Approved orders will be packaged at the warehouse and then the CMHC will be notified and able to pick-up supplies from the warehouse. The warehouse is located in

Concord NH, and pick-up times are available from 8:30am-3:30pm Monday through Friday excluding state holidays.

The order packing slip will require a signature upon pick-up and will remain on file at BEPRR. A copy of the packing slip will be provided to the SMHA for grant expenditure tracking purposes and invoices for the PPE will be billed to and paid directly by the DHHS finance team.

The current cost for PPE through the BEPRR are as follows:

Item	Cost	Package Size	Price per Unit
N95 Mask	\$15.80	20 Masks	\$0.79
Surgical Mask	\$9.99	50 Masks	\$0.20
Face Shield	\$118.99	100 Face Shields	\$1.19
Gloves	\$12.99	100 Gloves	\$0.13
Goggles	\$3.99	1 Set Goggles	\$3.99
Hand Sanitizer	\$19.99	1 Gallon	\$19.99
Disinfectant Wipes	\$34.48	6 Containers (Each Container is 75 wipes)	\$5.74 Per Container (\$0.07 Per Wipe)

- Honeywell N95 Masks (Minimum Order Quantity 200)
- Medium Nitrile Gloves (Minimum order quantity 1,000)
- QYK Disinfectant Wipe (Minimum Order Quantity 24 Containers)

To aid the CMHCs in determining how much and what PPE to order, the Centers for Disease Control provides guidance surrounding PPE utilization and how to calculate PPE utilization rate. “The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Burn Rate Calculator (Version 2)” is a tool to assist healthcare facilities and non-healthcare facilities to plan and optimize the use of PPE for response to COVID-19. By using the calculator providers can establish order projections for future needs. ([Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Burn Rate Calculator | CDC](#))

The CMHCs will have the ability to order PPE needed at their centers at no cost to the agencies. Utilizing the process outlined above, this grant award will help ease the burden on CMHCs to purchase PPE, which can have a significant impact on their budget. The uncertainty of how COVID-19 will carry out over the next few years creates a hardship on CMHCs to properly budget for PPE that will partially correlate with their ability to continue to provide in-person services during these hard times.

In the event the awarded amount is not fully expended by the CMHCs, the SMHA will work with other contracted mental health providers such as Transitional Housing Program providers and regionally based Peer Support Agencies that need PPE.