

CARES Act Funding – Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment Provider Services Guidelines

CARES Act funding is available in Franklin County for Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment Provider services.

The CARES Act was signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020 and provides funding for a variety of programs intended to alleviate the impact of COVID-19. Act 24 of 2020 was signed by Governor Wolf on May 29, 2020. This legislation provides \$625 million in CARES Act Coronavirus Relief funding by means of block grants for counties in the commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Background Section 5001 of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (March 27, 2020) establishes the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Funding can be used for expenditures that:

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020

Program Timeline

- **October 14** – Grant application announced
- **October 15** – Grant application opens at 8 a.m.
- **October 23** – Grant application closes at 4:30 p.m.
- **Early November** – Grant awards announced*
- **December 30** –Deadline for spending grant funds

*Exact date to be determined.

Eligible Applicants

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment Providers

- A for-profit business or not-for-profit entity involved in delivery of behavioral health or substance use treatment services
- Applicants must have a physical location in Franklin County
- Applicants must have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and have eligible uses for the funds as set forth below.
- Providers must agree to sign an acknowledgement as part of the application ensuring the accuracy of and authorization to sign the application on behalf of the business

Grant Award Amounts

Awards are based on the amount of funding requested, eligible and available.

AVAILABLE FUNDS ARE LIMITED AND A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS ARE ANTICIPATED. Applicant recognizes that there is no assurance that Applicant will be awarded any grant of any size, regardless of how well the Applicant may meet the criteria for awarding these grants and regardless of what the Applicant may have been told or read with respect to this grant program.

Eligible Uses of Block Grant Funding

Funds shall be used to cover only those costs necessary to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency that were:

- Incurred during the period from July 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020.
- Eligible expenditure examples (not limited to):
 - Treatment services related to COVID-19
 - Fund payments may only be used for expenditures necessary to address the current COVID-19 public health emergency (treatment, current safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus, increase facility's ability to provide telehealth during the pandemic)

- Operating Expenses (such as):
 - Rent, mortgage interest, cable, internet, phone, spoilage, PPE purchases, cleaning supplies.
 - Any cost associated with preparing the agency to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
 - Working capital for the purpose of covering the costs of re-opening operations after being fully or partially closed due to the state-mandated closure period commencing March 2020, as long as the expense was incurred due to COVID-19.
 - Any expenses (costs) incurred related to the expense of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to specialized equipment, barriers, PPE's, and employee training expenses to ensure compliance with state and federal CDC guidelines for reopening.
 - Any Covid-19 related expenses not already paid for with other relief measures such as state grants or loans, SBA Paycheck Protection Program loans, local or regional grant and/or loan programs.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to the following:

- Expenses not related to the COVID-19 public emergency
- Expenses incurred outside of the July 1 to December 30, 2020 timeframe
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed through another federal program or some other COVID-19 funding source
- Damages covered by insurance
- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Reimbursing donors for donated items or services
- Employee bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime
- Severance pay

- Legal settlements
- Revenue replacement

Application and Review Procedures

All applications must be submitted by **Friday, October 23, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** A task force of human services staff will evaluate applications submitted in each eligible use category and submit funding recommendations to the Franklin County Commissioners who will make final funding awards. Applications will be evaluated based upon the applicant's need for funding, eligible expenses, community impact of the investment, and ability to spend program funds within established guidelines.

Procedures for Accessing Funds

Successful applicants will be notified by **early November** and will enter into a contract with Franklin County for expenditure of funds. **All funds must be fully expended by Wednesday, December 30, 2020.**

Compliance, Reporting, and Auditing

Fund payments are only subject to the requirements in the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200) applicable to federal financial assistance, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.303 regarding internal controls, 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.330 through 200.332 regarding subrecipient monitoring and management, and Subpart F regarding audit requirements.

Generally any entity that does not have an IRS tax exempt status, will be required to treat the grant as taxable income and is responsible for paying any applicable taxes. Entities should consult with their tax advisors on any questions.

The application can be found at www.franklincountypa.gov.

Questions? Contact Stacie Horvath, Human Services Administrator, Franklin County Human Services at smhorvath@franklincountypa.gov or call (717) 261-3862.