

STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VRP3 PROJECT

Background:

Currently in Ohio, there are thousands of individuals with mental health issues and/or drug and alcohol addiction in need of vocational rehabilitation services to help them move towards recovery and work readiness. This has resulted in a need for a multi-systemic approach to preparing these individuals for employment. The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) have conceived and are developing a project that will establish a statewide program allowing Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards to contract with local agencies to provide vocational rehabilitation and treatment services to eligible consumers with a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) diagnosis.

Program:

Individuals receiving vocational rehabilitation services under this program will: be diagnosed with a mental illness or addiction that results in a substantial barrier to employment; meet the RSC eligibility criteria for most significant disability; and can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services to gain or retain employment. Additionally, clients served under this program will be in one of the five following populations:

- Individuals addicted to opiates
- Individuals with an addiction or mental illness diverted or reentering from a local or state correctional facility
- Youth or young adults in transition with an addiction or mental illness
- Veterans with a mental illness or addiction
- Individual with a Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)

Allowable VR Services:

The primary purpose of the RSC dollars being matched for this program is **to provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals to remove barriers and provide supports necessary for self-sufficiency and employment opportunities**. These services can include, but are not limited to:

- Vocational rehabilitation services
- Addiction and/or mental health treatment services (when not otherwise funded)
- Mental health and/or MAT pharmaceuticals (when not otherwise funded)
- Time limited residential treatment and/or halfway house support (when not otherwise funded)

Funding:

The funds for this project were identified because RSC did not have sufficient funds to match the proposed federal vocational rehabilitation grant for Ohio. This meant that approximately \$33 million of unmatched funds would remain with the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. In order for Ohio to draw down these funds, RSC needs approximately \$8.9 million in

public funds eligible as match. In discussions with the behavioral health system it became evident that these funds could be utilized to develop a statewide program for individuals with a mental illness and/or addiction that supports recovery and employment. To draw down the federal RSC funds this project will work with local ADAMH Boards to provide the approximately \$8.9 million to create a statewide RSC/behavioral health program.

For every dollar that an individual Boards puts forward towards match, they will receive an additional \$3.00995 in federal funds which results in a total of \$4.00995 to put towards this program at the local level. These dollars must all be spent by September 30, 2012 (service date). An approximate budget for this project is as follows (final budget will be based on amount boards choose to match):

Total RSC Project:

Total Match Needed from Boards	\$ 8,909,995
Total Federal Draw Down Available	<u>\$32,877,881</u>
Total Project Dollars	\$41,787,876

Project Breakdown:

Total Match by Boards	\$ 8,909,995
Total RSC draw down for Boards projects	<u>\$26,818,639</u>
Total Project Dollars for Board projects	\$35,728,634
RSC Administration (13%)	\$ 5,432,424
<u>ODADAS Administration/Monitoring (1.5%)</u>	<u>\$ 626,818</u>
Total project dollars (must be spent by 9-30-12)	\$41,787,876

ODADAS and ODMH have determined that each Board may match funds for this project based on board area population as a percentage of total state population (using 2009 census estimates). In the event not all Boards choose to participate (or at less than 100%), the unmatched portion will be opened to Boards wishing to match at a higher percentage.

*All funding and eligibility decisions related to the projects will be determined by ODADAS and ODMH.

Partner Activities:

RSC:

1. Secure legal agreement with grantee (ODADAS)
2. Provide training and technical assistance to staff to include:
 - a. Resource availability throughout the state
 - b. Utilization of RSC's case management system
 - c. How to write an Individualized Plan for Employment
 - d. Establishing VR performance and outcome measures
 - e. Collecting, maintaining, and reporting VR data for state and federal reporting requirements
3. Monitor the grantees deliverables, performance, and outcome measures
4. Provide administrative supervision and payment processing

ODADAS:

1. Secure legal agreement with each Board participating in program
2. Secure interagency agreement between ODADAS and ODMH
3. Collect Match funds from the Boards
4. Distribute total match funds to RSC
5. Notify RSC of the anticipated statewide number of consumers to be served
6. Identify and collect program specific performance and outcome measures
7. Secure legal agreement with OACBHA for training and technical assistance
8. Evaluate impact of statewide program
9. Monitor fiscal activities

ADAMH Boards:

1. Secure legal agreement with ODADAS
2. Distribute match funds to ODADAS
3. Complete project budgets inclusive of programmatic, contracting, and administrative costs
4. Notify ODADAS of anticipated number of consumers to be served
5. Secure local service delivery agreements for vocational and treatment services as required in ODADAS contact
 - a. Ensure VR service plans are created in accordance with RSC standards to include services to be provided to consumers in their board area
6. Report performance and outcome measures to ODADAS who will share information with RSC and ODMH to meet federal requirements

(* Note: There will be quarterly reviews of expenditures to ensure that at the end of the program funds are not returned to the federal government.)

OACBHA:

1. Poll Boards to determine final level of interest by board area
2. Notify ODADAS/ODMH amount of match dollars to be committed by local boards so they may invoice the Boards
3. Provide training and technical assistance
 - a. Convene board project coordinators on a quarterly basis
 - b. Provide onsite technical assistance and training when requested
 - c. Establish and maintain a program webpage to share project best practices, activities and successes.
 - d. Serve as a clearinghouse for questions, project challenges, educational needs, etc.
4. Advocate on behalf of the Boards with ODADAS, ODMH and RSC, for the purpose of statewide consistency