

Setting of Priorities

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County has a policy for the prioritization of services and resources that the CEO, staff and Board of Directors follow. This policy is implemented during the planning and funding process and may utilize various resources, such as needs assessments, surveys, polling, focus groups, stakeholders and the practices of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). Typically, the priorities for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County are set in the following ways:

- Use of data gathered in various Needs Assessments.
- Input from the community, clients, providers, partner systems, volunteer Board of Directors, CEO and the staff of the ADAMHS Board received through the strategic planning process and funding priority meetings.
- The Executive staff compile and rank the input based on the importance to the system and available funding.
- The CEO presents a recommendation of the priorities to the Board of Directors through the appropriate committee, usually Planning & Oversight and/or Finance & Operations for further discussion.
- The Planning & Oversight and/or Finance & Operations Committees recommend adoption of the priorities to the General Meeting for full Board approval. Vetting of the priorities has been completed prior to being presented at the General Meeting.

Current Trends: The CEO and Board Staff also analyze current community and system trends when setting priorities. These current trends considered for CY23 are:

- The pandemic has created an increased awareness of mental health and substance use disorders, thereby increasing the need for services. It has also exacerbated the behavioral health workforce shortage, creating an increased need for behavioral health professionals. The ADAMHS Board will work with local and state partners to continue efforts to address the behavioral health workforce shortages.
- The opioid epidemic continues to decimate the County with the deadly mixing of fentanyl in other substances, such as cocaine, methamphetamine and counterfeit pills containing fentanyl; nearly one-third of 2022 overdose fatalities to date have been African American individuals impacted by this emerging threat.
- The ADAMHS Board released its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Implementation Plan, which serves as an overlay to the ADAMHS Board 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and complements the strategies with the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. The Board also contracted with Rice Education Consulting, LLC (REdCon), who created the Plan, to provide consultation and training to implement action items from the Plan, as well as initiatives from the Health Equity and Cultural Competency (HECC) Plan developed through a partnership with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA).

Calendar Year 2023 Budget Priorities

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County sets and approves priorities for funding of behavioral health treatment, prevention and recovery services to ensure that available dollars fund the best and most necessary services to support recovery.

Although the Board strives to fund all providers and programs, staff recommends that responses to the CY23 funding RFP should be reviewed based on the priorities, provider/program metrics from CY21 and the first six months of CY22, workforce status, cultural composition of leadership and staff and financial health of the agency.

As part of the CY23 priority setting process and a means of reflecting community input, Board staff reviewed the Board's CY22 priorities, the Board's Needs Assessment that was completed in May 2020, RecoveryOhio priorities, the OhioMHAS 21-24 Strategic Plan, the Board's 21-25 Strategic Plan and information gathered through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan development process.

The Board's Management Team met to identify and streamline priorities to reflect the responsibilities of the ADAMHS Board and ensure that funded providers utilize Evidenced Based Best Practices for prevention and treatment services and Best Practices for recovery support services.

Priorities are set with the overarching objective for the ADAMHS Board to contract for quality, collaborative, culturally competent, culturally appropriate, evidence-based, best practice, trauma informed, and diverse behavioral health treatment, recovery and prevention services that prioritize equity and inclusion to meet the needs of the residents of Cuyahoga County across the lifespan for children, transitional youth, adolescents, adults, older adults and special populations.

The following eight funding priorities were presented and discussed in ranked order during the Board's June Planning & Oversight and Finance & Operations Committee meetings. The recommended priorities were also shared with all Board Members and providers, and were officially adopted by the Board on June 22, 2022, with the passage of Resolution No. 22-06-09:

1. 24-hour Crisis services. including Crisis Hotline, Crisis Text, 988, OhioRISE, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), Crisis Residential Services, Co-responder and Care Responder Teams.
2. Prevention and early intervention programs and campaigns for mental health and addiction using both traditional and innovative approaches, including communication efforts to reach diverse populations about the availability of services.
3. High Quality Housing including Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) for adults with mental illness, Sober and Recovery Housing for adults that are certified with National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards, and Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) that meet State and National Residential Care and Assisted Living Regulations and Policies.
4. Harm reduction efforts and innovative strategies to reduce deaths by overdose and suicide, allowing individuals the chance to seek treatment.
5. Peer Support for mental health and addiction.
6. Removing barriers to treatment, including transportation, stigma and development of a diverse workforce.
7. 24-Hours a Day/Seven Days a Week access for mental health and addiction treatment and recovery services, with in-person services delivered wherever possible
8. Employment Programs for people living in recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness.

CY2023 FUNDING BY PRIORITY

ADAMHS Board Priority	2023 Funding
Crisis Services	\$ 14,530,388.00
Prevention and Early Intervention	\$ 6,597,155.00
Housing	\$ 12,868,722.00
Harm Reduction	\$ 304,606.00
Peer Support	\$ 4,506,578.00
Removing Barriers	\$ 3,003,747.00
24/7 Access	\$ 1,799,729.00
Employment Programs	\$ 1,304,289.00

