

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Substance Addiction Services
Federal Grant Request for Information (RFI)
NC0221
March 16, 2021**

Request for Information: The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) seeks written comments from providers and stakeholders on their recommendations on how to use recently released COVID emergency relief funds in order to improve the Commonwealth's SUD prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services systems in the context of COVID-19.

Background:

Recognizing the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on people with substance use disorders (SUD), as well as service providers, the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration recently released COVID emergency relief funding as a supplement to the Substance Abuse Block Grant.

This funding was appropriated as part of The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) and is designed to assist in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be available from March 2021 through March 2023.

Instructions: Please provide a brief written response by **April 16, 2021 at 5PM** to any or all of the following questions, along with any relevant supplementary information (e.g., publication citations, links to additional information) that supports your response(s).

Note: A response is not required for each question. Please respond based on your areas of interest and expertise.

Optional Contact Information

Name:

Agency or affiliation (if any):

Email:

1. What do you see as the largest gaps or unmet needs in Massachusetts's SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services systems in the context of COVID-19? Please rank each in terms of priority.
2. What new or existing strategies would you propose to address these needs and gaps?
3. What gaps related to addressing alcohol use and treating alcohol use disorder have you identified? What solutions or strategies do you recommend?
4. What gaps related to racial equity in the delivery of substance use prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support have you identified? What solutions or strategies do you recommend?
5. What gaps in service related to the social determinants of health (access to basic needs) and substance use have you identified? What solutions or strategies do you recommend?
6. What gaps in care for individuals and families across the lifespan related to substance use have you identified? What solutions or strategies do you recommend?

7. What approach do you recommend BSAS prioritize with this one-time additional funding? Approaches could include (but are not limited to) adding to and expanding on existing efforts; adding new initiatives that expand into areas of unmet need or address current inequities; focusing on workforce development initiatives; infusing short term funding for covid-related gaps and needs; or implementing other approaches you have identified? Please provide specifics and explain why you are recommending a particular approach or approaches.
8. Do you have any further comments or suggestions for this funding that are not covered in the questions listed above?

Please submit responses via email no later than **April 16, 2021 to Kevin.Botelho@mass.gov.**

Please put the following in the subject line: **SABG COVID-19 Emergency Relief RFI Response.**

Thank you.