



COVID-19 Federal Resource Guideline Series: SAMHSA Homeless-Specific Grants

What needed activities and services do SAMHSA homeless-specific grants provide or pay for?

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that leads public health efforts to improve behavioral health. Its mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on communities across the nation. SAMHSA provides grant funding through two block grants: the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG), as well as program funding that targets specific populations.

SAMHSA provides several formula-based and discretionary grant programs and resources specific to preventing and ending homelessness among people with mental or substance use disorders.

- **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)** – a formula grant to all states, but a competitive grant for local organizations. PATH programs provide essential services that may not be included in mainstream mental health programs.
- **Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI)** – a competitive grant program that supports state and local efforts to provide behavioral health and recovery services within a permanent supportive housing approach.
- **Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)** – a competitive grant program with a goal of expanding communities' treatment and recovery support services for individuals with substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders.
- **Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH)** – a competitive grant program with a goal of expanding access to evidence-based treatment, peer support, recovery services, and connection to permanent housing. The TIEH program also requires connections to the Department of Housing and the Coordinated Entry system.
- **SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)** – the goal of the SOAR program is to enable individuals (both children and adults) who are homeless (or at risk of becoming homeless) and have a serious mental illness, medical disability and/or co-occurring substance use disorder to access Social Security disability benefits.

What funds are available?

SAMHSA budgeted \$134 million for homeless-specific programs in FY20, out of a total budget of \$5.9 billion. In response to COVID-19, SAMHSA has released an [emergency grant](#) totaling \$110 million.

Where can you find more information?

SAMHSA maintains a page on [Homeless Programs and Resources](#) that contains information on each of its homelessness-specific grant programs and services as well as related resources on case management, housing and shelter, trauma, self-care, criminal justice, and more.