



Announcement: Mental Health Block Grant Awards for Southwest Washington

Beacon Health Options (Beacon) is pleased to announce the Mental Health Block Grants (MHBG) awards in Southwest Washington for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The geographical region covered includes Clark and Skamania Counties.

About MHBG

MHBG are funds granted by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), through the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to states to establish or expand an organized community-based system for providing mental health services for adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and children who are seriously emotionally disturbed (SED). Each Regional Service Area in Washington State is required to have an approved MHBG plan that dictates how the federal funds will be spent in that region. In Southwest Washington, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) is the entity responsible for approving the regional MHBG plan and Beacon is the administrator of block grant funds. On November 1, 2017, a Request for Responses (RFR) was released by Beacon to gather input from a diverse array of community stakeholders to inform a future MHBG prioritization plan, identify innovative programs and select awardees from the pool of submissions. A scoring panel was convened to ensure alignment with the BHAB’s community priorities.

MHBG Renewals for Fiscal Year 2018-2019:

Community Services Northwest (CSNW)	Continued support of the Wellness Program, providing outpatient services for uninsured low-income adults
Consumer Voices Are Born (CVAB)	Continued support for the Warm Line, a peer-run and staffed telephone support line
NAMI SW WA	Continued support for programs that develop and include family peers and individual peers to support services offered.

MHBG New Awards for Fiscal Year 2018-2019:

Children’s Home Society of Washington (CHSW)	Support for the Triple Point program which identifies LGBTQ youth in need of specialized support through Outreach and Health Education and connects youth to appropriate services
Lifeline Connections	Staffing for an engagement and retention specialist to provide services that enhance entrance and involvement with treatment for youth and adults with mental health disorders
Skamania County Community Health	Provide medication assistance in home, school, and jail settings by supporting transportation and staff not covered through Medicaid

About Beacon Health Options

Beacon Health Options is a health improvement company that serves 48 million individuals across all 50 states. On April 1, 2016, Beacon Health Options began providing services to residents of Clark and Skamania counties. As the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO) for Southwest Washington, Beacon is responsible for behavioral health crisis services for all individuals in these two counties regardless of their insurance status or income level. Beacon is also responsible for additional non-crisis services for low-income individuals who lack insurance coverage. The BH-ASO structure is part of the Washington Health Care Authority’s Fully Integrated Managed Care (FIMC) model, which seeks to bring whole-person, integrated care to Washington’s Medicaid population.