

Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnerships for Early Diversion (Early Diversion) Grant Profile



Grant Info

- **Type of Grant:** Discretionary Grant
- **Area of Focus:** Mental health treatment and recovery support
- **Purpose of Grant:** The purpose of this grant is to:
 - Establish or expand programs that divert adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) or a co-occurring disorder (COD), from the criminal justice system to community-based services prior to arrest and booking.
- **Start and End Date of Grant:**
09/30/2020-09/29/2025
- **Amount of Award (all years):**
 - **Federal Award Amount:** \$1,649,015.00
 - **State Award Amount:** \$369,140
- **% Match Required:** 25%



Grant Info

- **Source of Funding:**
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)
- **BHDDH Project Director and Email Address:**
 - Brenda Amodei, Brenda.Amodei@bhddh.ri.gov
- **Subrecipient Agency/Agencies:**
 - RI Hope State Police HOPE Initiative
- **Subrecipient Agency Contacts and Email Addresses:**
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Overview: Goals and Objectives

- The overall goal of this grant is to:
 - Improve partnerships between law enforcement and behavioral health providers
 - Increase knowledge and skills of law enforcement to respond to individuals with mental health and co-occurring disorders
 - Enhance local infrastructure to implement a multi- agency approach to address the three stages of diversion (encounter, enable and engage), prior to arrest or booking.
- The objectives are to:
 - Screen 1800 individuals
 - Refer 1350 individuals to treatment and support services
 - Engage 900 individuals in services
 - Train 180 individuals (responders, dispatchers, behavioral health professionals)



Required Activities

- Convene an interagency “Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnership” group.
- Develop a document that summarizes the policies, if any, that serve as barriers to the provision of integrated care, and the specific steps, if applicable, that will be taken to address such barriers.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan of evidence-based practices, strategies, and services using a multi-agency approach that addresses the following three stages of early diversion of an individual with SMI or COD prior to arrest or booking:
 - Encounter
 - Enable
 - Engage
- Integrate the early diversion program into an existing system of care.



Required Activities: Three stages of Early Diversion

- **Encounter:** Process for identifying potential individuals for diversion and direct transfer to behavioral health care providers.
 - Example: Law Enforcement transport individual to locations that address the crisis and connect them with ongoing services.
- **Enable:** Protocols to be followed to enable law enforcement to conduct the transfer/warm hand-off.
 - How and when the individual will be assessed for a SMI and COD.
- **Engage:** Identification and subsequent provision of community-based mental health treatment and recovery support services that are based on best known practices and current research findings.
 - Ensures that individuals with SMI or COD remain enrolled and engaged in care.
 - Examples of services include, but are not limited to, integrated mental health and substance use disorder treatment, psychiatric rehabilitation, medication management and access, case management services, peer support services.
 - These services should be coordinated with social services, including life skills training, housing placement, vocational training, education and job placement, and health care.



Approach

- Expand the HOPE Initiative response team services in the City of Providence. Teams should include, at minimum, one medic and one mental health worker from the HOPE Initiative. The team may also include a Certified Peer Recovery Specialists from the HOPE Initiative. All team members will be trained in behavioral health crisis response.
- If an incident is not de-escalated/an individual is not stabilized, then HOPE will attempt to make a “warm hand-off” to BH Link.
- HOPE will screen individuals and determine necessary referrals for treatment of individuals.



Approach (Cont'd)

- As HOPE capacity allows, provide follow up services and case management services to individuals with mental health conditions that are encountered by police departments participating in the Early Diversion grant.
- Deliver training and to police departments in the Crisis Intervention Team framework and provide technical assistance on the implementation of the core components of the model

