

Hawaii Department of Health
Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD)
Request for Information (RFI) Response Summary
RFI No. AMHD 420-3-17
Mental Health Block Grant Funds
Statewide

A Request for Information for Mental Health Block Grant Funds, statewide, was issued on September 28, 2016. Written feedback was received from one organization. Below is a summary of the responses received through this process as they relate to the questions from the RFI.

The AMHD requested feedback on how short-term projects/proposals can promote prevention of substance abuse and mental illness. The Respondent emphasized the importance of public awareness in teaching community intervention programs to train teachers and other adults to interact with individuals to detect and respond to mental illness, substance abuse disorders and how to seek treatment. The Respondent stated that support to advocate for early stage psychosis interventions is needed and should be included in various program curriculums.

In the area of integration of trauma-informed and justice-oriented approaches, Respondent states that the criminal justice system has become the major player in society's current response to mental illness treatment and is concerned about how this relates to the harmful effects of trauma and violence on individuals, families and communities. While recognizing the importance of safety of the individuals and society, the need for education, support and advocacy in working together is essential.

In the area of health information technology, the Respondent does not directly offer health information technology, but does provide electronic training and refreshers to certified teachers and facilitators with various programs and with the opportunity to discuss the potential for mental health applications and other online mental health information. The frequent observation of the families is that due to the privacy laws there are frequent barriers for family members trying to provide support.

In the area of strategies used to ensure the most efficient and appropriate use of resources, the Respondent suggested a yearly one-day refresher meeting to encourage and retain volunteer teachers and facilitators. Also, monies would be used to train new teachers and facilitators to reduce burnout.

The AMHD appreciates the level of interest and the observations made regarding the RFI for the Mental Health Block Grant funds. These observations and recommendations will be reviewed and taken into consideration when drafting the Scope of Service for the program. An RFP is planned to be issued for this program.