

DHS – Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Mental Health Block Grant Arkansas Plan

Arkansas will be using ARPA funds to develop, enhance, and improve our crisis continuum services, enhance evidence-based practice, and implement a First Episode of Psychosis/Early Serious Mental Illness (FEP/ESMI) pilot program.

Our focus on the crisis continuum services will include additional expansion (beyond the COVID Relief Plan) of our Peer Workforce. We have a goal of infusing more Peers into judicial, correctional, law enforcement, and child welfare settings. These funds will ensure appropriate training, program development, and Peer Supervision for this workforce. Peers providing services in these areas will ensure coordination/connection with those in need of behavioral health services. **\$5,500,000.00**

Additionally, our crisis continuum is currently lacking accommodations for the deaf, hard of hearing, and Spanish speaking communities. Ready access to credentialed interpreters is crucial for those experiencing mental health crises. Effective communication may also be able to divert individuals from more costly crisis services. **\$480,000.00**

Our current crisis system does not ensure adequate follow-up with individuals, post-crisis. With the enhanced Peer workforce, our plan will include incorporating Peers to staff an informational line which will incorporate a “warm line” along with follow-up for 6 months after the initial crisis. This element of the crisis continuum encompasses the mandatory 5% set aside for Crisis Services per our federal block grant requirements. **\$1,288,679.00**

Finally, our current crisis continuum is lacking a state-wide platform for outreach and informational campaigns on how to seek crisis services. In addition to these campaigns, Arkansas will develop a portal for treatment providers and community supports. This resource will be helpful with the implementation of 9-8-8. **\$2,000,000.00**

Evidence-based practice enhancement will target providing our mental health professionals with nationally recognized training models. One critical area of training will focus on trauma-focused care. In addition, Mental Health First Aid training will be made widely available for Arkansans who work with the public but have limited knowledge of how to deal with those in crisis, including referrals for appropriate services. **\$1,000,000.00**

Arkansas lags behind many other states with implementation of evidence-based care for our FEP/ESMI citizens. As this is a priority population identified by our federal block grant. This grant requires a minimum of 10% of the funds be dedicated toward this population. A full Coordinated Special Care model will be implemented with this funding. **\$1,248,000.00**

Support and administration of the ARPA program components through hiring of 3 positions to oversee these programs. **\$970,351.00**

*DFA- OB edit
Now 4 positions as the division
received one position (GS07) in
August 2022 and are currently
request 3 more

Total: \$12,487,030.00

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