Telehealth Grant Announcement Q&A

On January 5, 2018, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) released an announcement for grant applications (Grant ID MHCC 18-012) entitled, *Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders Supported by Mobile Devices*.[1] The MHCC is making available some common questions and answers that pertain to this announcement. This document will be updated as we receive additional questions from potential applicants.

1. **Question:** What is meant by "use case" in the announcement?

   Answer: A use case is a series of related actions between a user(s) and a technology system(s) that enables the user to achieve a particular goal. The project announcement seeks to have grant applicants propose the technology and methodology to be used in order to test the use of a specific type of telehealth, as described in an applicant's proposal, to improve health outcomes, reduce costs, increase efficiencies and/or improve the patient experience for a particular population.

2. **Question:** What is meant by 'other grant funds cannot be used as matching funds'?

   Answer: If the applicant has been awarded grant funds for the proposed project from another source, those funds cannot be counted toward the 1:1 financial match.

3. **Question:** If an applicant is partnering with an organization that is currently receiving or has previously received funding from an MHCC grant, would this disqualify the applicant from being considered for this grant?

   Answer: No, this would not disqualify an applicant from being considered to receive an award. Please note, the applicant would need to ensure that all requirements outlined in the Request for Applications are met.

4. **Question:** Can out-of-State organizations collaborate with a Maryland organization and submit an application if they focus on the outcomes defined?

   Answer: A non-Maryland based company could apply for the grant in partnership with a Maryland-based organization. The primary applicant would need to be the Maryland-based organization and the targeted patient(s) must be Maryland residents.

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[1] The announcement can be found here:
http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/procurement.aspx

5. **Question:** If two or more organizations are forming a partnership to respond to the grant announcement, which organization should be the primary applicant?

    Answer: The primary applicant would need to be a Maryland-based organization and be able to meet the criteria as outlined in the Announcement.

6. **Question:** If the organization interested in applying for the grant has an in-house pharmacy and would not be partnering with another organization, would this disqualify the organization from applying?

    Answer: The organization would not be disqualified from applying; however, the project should demonstrate that there will be at least two sites/locations in which telehealth will be utilized. Specifically, the site at which the pharmacist is located and the site at which the patient and/or other health care practitioner is located.

7. **Question**: Is the grant available to federal facilities?

    Answer: The MHCC would accept an application from a federal facility but it would need to be in collaboration with a non-federal facility as prime (e.g. Hospital, Academic Institution, ambulatory provider group, etc.)

8. **Question**: Can MHCC recommend a technology that the organization should use as part of the proposed project?

    Answer: In an effort to be vendor neutral, MHCC cannot recommend a technology vendor. The applicant must demonstrate how the telehealth technology to be used as part of the project meets certain requirements as detailed in section IX.A.1.a. of the grant announcement. Information and educational resources regarding selecting the most appropriate telehealth technology, among other topics, are available to organizations, from entities such as the Regional Telehealth Resource Centers, including the National Telehealth Technology Assessment Resource Center, and others.

9. **Question:** Can a solo practitioner apply for the grant?

    Answer: Solo practitioners may apply for the grant.

10. **Question:** Can an organization use transformation funds received from the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), as match funds toward the grant?

    Answer: Hospitals may use transformation funds approved by the HSCRC under their total patient revenue or global budget revenue, as match funds toward the grant.

11. **Question:** What is the allowable indirect cost rate?

Answer: The MHCC does not have a defined indirect cost rate for projects funded under its grants. Applicants may include an indirect cost proposal as part of its application. The MHCC reserves the right to negotiate and approve an indirect cost rate with the applicant.

12. **Question:** Regarding objectives and associated measures that must be identified within Attachment C, are applicants required to include objectives and measures that relate to reducing hospital readmissions and emergency room visits?

    Answer: Applicants are not required to assess the project as it relates to reducing hospital readmissions and/or emergency room visits.

13. **Question:** Can services provided by a third-party technology vendors be used toward the match.

    Answer: Yes, services provided by a technology vendor may be counted towards the grantee's match. The services may be paid for by the grantee, or provide by the technology vendor as in-kind contributions and must be services that are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of the project objectives.