

RCPA Urges Behavioral Health, Drug and Alcohol, and Nonprofit Providers to Reach out to Counties for Block Grant Funding

On May 29, RCPA sent out a [member alert](#) summarizing [HB 2510](#) and [SB 1108](#). These bills appropriated the CARES Act funding. SB 1108 identifies the dollar amounts and the line items where CARE Act funding will be used. HB 2510 sets forth the guidelines on how the CARES Act funding will be distributed by state agencies and counties.

In HB 2510, the bill established a County Block Grant. Pursuant to the bill, the Department of Community and Economic Development will be distributing the CARE Act funds to the counties. The specifics of the County Block Grant are as follows:

- a. Counties will receive COVID Relief funding based upon a population proportion formula;
- b. Counties will receive the funding on or before July 15, 2020;
- c. No County shall receive no less than \$1,000,000;
- d. A County that has received monies directly from the Federal Government is not eligible for this County Block Grants program;
- e. Counties may use the funds for:
 - i) Offsetting County costs for purchasing PPEs and any incurred administrative costs for COVID-19 expenses;
 - ii) Creating small business grant programs;
 - iii) Grant programs for Economic Development Organizations, Local Development Districts, Industrial Resource Centers; Small Business Development Centers, Economic Development Corporations;
 - iv) Assist Cities, Boroughs, Towns or Townships for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19, including the purchase of PPEs;
 - v) **Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services;**
 - vi) **501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit assistance;** and
 - vii) Broadband Internet Deployment with priority given to unserved or underserved areas

As of today, RCPA has not seen any guidance on how counties will be distributing the County Block Grant to eligible parties, but it is assumed that the counties will create an application process to access these funds.

Yesterday, RCPA spoke with DDAP Secretary Jen Smith – the Secretary highly recommended that **providers reach out to their County Commissioners and health and human service administrator** (if one is employed by the county) to make sure behavioral health and drug and alcohol providers are not overlooked when the process is created by the county, and when the funds are distributed.

Questions, please contact [Jack Phillips](#).