

SB 418: Legislative Mental Health Investments County and Youth Diversion Grant Awards

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for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
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Background

The 2015 Legislature approved two bills to create or expand grant programs for community-based mental health efforts, as follows:

- House Bill 33 added \$1 million a year to an existing program that provides grants to counties for crisis intervention and jail diversion efforts for adults; and
- House Bill 47 provided \$1.2 million for the current two-year budget period for community-based youth crisis diversion efforts. The money replaced federal and private grant funds that were no longer available.

HB 2 also put another \$250,000 a year into the county grant program to be used only for existing county grant recipients whose programs are experiencing increased use or demand. When combined with the existing base appropriation, the appropriations in HB 33 and HB 2 bring the total for the county grant program to \$2.1 million in each year of the biennium.

This briefing paper summarizes the grants awarded to date with these funds, as well as the ways in which the effectiveness of the community-based efforts will be measured.

County Grant Awards

HB 33 was designed to create new community-based crisis intervention and jail diversion efforts in parts of the state that currently don't have services. The new funding in HB 33 must be used in the following order of priority:

- for new services in new areas of the state;
- for new services in areas of the state that had received grants in the past for other crisis-related activities; and
- for programs that have been funded in the past and are experiencing an increased demand for services.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services awarded the county grant funds in early September. The amount of funding requested was slightly less than the amount available, so all applications were funded.

Nine counties that had not sought funding in Fiscal Year 2015 applied for the FY 2016 grants. Seven counties that were funded in FY 2015 received funding for continuing and, in some instances, expanding the services they offer. The table on Pages 2 and 3 provides more detail on the activities funded through the county grant program.

County Grant Awards, FY 2016

County	Activities	Amount
Beaverhead*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to law enforcement and community partners • Develop mental health policy strategies with community partners • Pay for transportation costs to crisis facility or Montana State Hospital • Provide a therapist at the county jail for at least two hours a month • Case management services for re-integration into the community 	\$9,516
Broadwater*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a feasibility study to identify strengths and weaknesses of the current jail diversion system and identify needs 	\$12,355
Custer*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and construct a crisis stabilization facility to serve individuals from Custer, Richland, Dawson, Rosebud, and Valley counties 	\$330,200
Gallatin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide CIT and Mobile Crisis Response Outreach training • Mentor other communities on crisis response • Support a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the county jail • Continue funding for peer support specialists • Support stabilization services for people not yet in crisis • Research the use of mobile crisis teams in other states 	\$147,032
Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mental health training to law enforcement • Support an employee in the county jail to work on discharge planning • Coordinate a collaborative community response to mental health crisis 	\$70,350
Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete construction of Lake House, a crisis stabilization facility • Support staff costs for Lake House 	\$202,000
Lewis and Clark*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a full-time mental health professional at the county jail • Support a full-time case worker at the county jail to work on re-integrating offenders into the community • Provide ongoing support for the 24/7 Crisis Response Team that helps law enforcement officers make evaluations in the field 	\$155,400
Lincoln*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectural design, site review, legal, and project management to plan for construction of a crisis stabilization facility 	\$40,000
Missoula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectural review of potential sites for an emergency detention unit • Provide CIT training for law enforcement officers • Support mental health services at the county jail, local hospitals, and Partnership Health Center 	\$253,221
Park*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide CIT training for law enforcement officers • Support a part-time mental health therapist at the county jail • Support a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the county jail 	\$15,000
Powell*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct mental health education programs • Divert people to community-based residential and outpatient services • Cover transportation and other treatment-related costs 	\$5,000
Ravalli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully support the county's mental health professional team • Provide CIT training for law enforcement • Continue case management services to provide follow-up care for individuals at West House or the county jail 	\$65,869

County	Activities	Amount
Richland*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Mental Health First Aid training to all sheriff's deputies and jailers • Support costs of the health unit at the county jail 	\$114,599
Silver Bow*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide CIT training and continuing education for CIT officers • Provide case management services for reintegration into the community • Cover costs of transporting patients to crisis facilities or the Montana State Hospital 	\$20,500
Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support for the costs of the secure crisis room at the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital and mental health evaluations for individuals in need of crisis room services 	\$36,000
Yellowstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support operations of the Community Crisis Center 	\$353,593
Total		\$1,830,635

* Denotes a request from a county that did not participate in the grant program in FY 2015

In general, all of the county grant recipients will be required to report:

- the number of 9-1-1 calls that include a mental health disorder as an element of the crisis call;
- the number of people served during the grant period;
- demographic information about the people served;
- whether individuals seen by a mental health provider were returned to the community, referred to a hospital, committed to a state facility, or held in the county jail; and
- the county's progress in reducing the use of the Montana State Hospital for short-term emergency or court-ordered detention and involuntary commitment, compared to the county's prior year use of the State Hospital.

In addition, counties will be required to report on specific results of the use of some of the funds, such as the progress made toward completing or using a crisis stabilization facility or the results of placing psychiatric or case management staff in county jails.

Youth Crisis Diversion Grants

The Children's Mental Health Bureau has awarded five HB 47 grants totaling 1.2 million for community-based projects designed to prevent admission of youth experiencing a mental health crisis into a higher and more restrictive level of care. Grant recipients and amounts were:

- Center for Mental Health, \$240,000 for a project in Great Falls;
- Youth Homes, \$240,000 each for projects in Helena and Missoula;

- Stillwater Therapeutic Services, \$239,713 for a project in Kalispell; and
- Yellowstone Youth Crisis Network, \$240,000 for a project based in Billings.

In general, the projects all will provide a 24-hour crisis line, a website, mobile crisis response, coordination of community efforts, and designated crisis stabilization beds in new or existing youth care facilities, therapeutic group homes, or hospitals.

All of the youth diversion grant recipients will report on:

- the number of youth referred to the program for diversion;
- the number of youth placed in temporary crisis housing;
- the number of youth placed in out-of-county residential or acute hospital care; and
- the number of website visits.

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