



Illinois Department of Human Services

JB Pritzker, Governor

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

Division of Mental Health

401 South Clinton, 2nd Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60607

November 2, 2021

Dear community hospital partners,

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health (DMH) appreciates the vital role that community hospitals play in Illinois' mental health system. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed numerous challenges to mental health providers across the state. DMH recognizes that when State-Operated Psychiatric Hospitals (SOPHs) are unable to admit uninsured individuals with SMI because an SOPH is on temporary COVID-19 outbreak status, community hospitals may experience a strain on their operations.

In response, DMH will utilize up to \$1M of our funding to support community hospitals able to provide care to uninsured individuals who would have otherwise been admitted to a SOPH but for a COVID-19 outbreak occurring at the facility from November 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

- This program will be available to hospitals within the catchment area where an SOPH is experiencing an intake pause due to COVID outbreak status.
- It is also available to pay for the care of individuals who reside in the normal SOPH catchment area, but due to community hospital capacity, may be receiving care in a community hospital outside the normal SOPH catchment area.
- Individuals will be covered for care until they are either clinically appropriate for discharge or able to be transferred to an SOPH that can admit them.
- In addition to funding individuals admitted into a community hospital between November 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, funding is available to pay for care provided prior to November 1 if the individual is still currently receiving services because they cannot be transferred to an SOPH due to a COVID-19 related pause in admissions.
- Community hospitals wishing to participate in this funding opportunity must follow typical admissions practices, including provision of the Uniform Screening and Referral Form (USARF) to the SOPH to which they normally refer.
- Prior to submitting an application for patient coverage, please review [Contraindications for Civil Admissions to a Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Hospital](#). This form includes relative contraindications for admission to an SOPH, with exceptions dependent on specific clinical circumstances.

Upon review of the USARF, the SOPH will inform the community hospital if they are unable to accept an individual due to COVID-19 outbreak status. DMH clinicians will review each referral for appropriateness. If approved, representatives of DMH Business Policy and Fiscal Operations will contact the community hospital to develop a contract to reimburse at the approved rate of \$880 per day.

Thank you for your support, patience, and understanding during this time. We look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Albert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Albert, PhD
Director, Division of Mental Health
Illinois Department of Human Services