



JB Pritzker, Governor

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

Division of Mental Health
401 South Clinton, 2nd Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60607

January 25, 2022

Dear community hospital partners,

In November 2021, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Mental Health (DMH) announced a program to pay community hospitals to provide care to uninsured individuals who were unable to be admitted to a State-Operated Psychiatric Hospital (SOPH) due to a COVID-19 outbreak occurring at the SOPH.

We allocated \$1M toward this program but did not expend the full amount. DMH is reopening access to these funds for the months of *September – December 2021*, as previously committed.

DMH will also be extending the program for the period of *January 1 – February 28, 2022*.

The criteria and procedures for participating remain as follows:

- The timeframe covered by the program is September 21, 2021- February 28, 2022.
- 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.
- 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.



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Upon review of the USARF, the SOPH will inform the community hospital if they are approved to accept an individual due to a COVID-19 outbreak at the SOPH. 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.

We at DMH appreciate the vital role that community hospitals play in Illinois' mental health system and value your partnership in maintaining the mental health safety net during these difficult times.

If you have questions about patient eligibility you will need to reach out to the admissions unit in the State Operated Psychiatric Hospital you have normally sent the referral or contact Teresa Glaze, PhD at Teresa.Glaze@illinois.gov

If you have contractual questions after eligibility is approved, please email Jason Buckhold at Jason.buckhold@illinois.gov.

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

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