

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director

**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

 **NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



Cody L. Phinney,
MPH
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
*Chief Medical
Officer*

January 10, 2025

Dear valued community partner and subawardee:

As you know, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the state of Nevada received millions of dollars in additional funding for behavioral health care. The Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP) benefited from substantial supplements for the Community Mental Health Services and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services block grants, as well as American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that was distributed by the Governor's Finance Office and the Interim Finance Committee.

This funding allowed BBHWP, along with its partners and subawardees, to build new infrastructure, sustainable programs, and other improvements to the behavioral health ecosystem in Nevada, including crisis stabilization centers, Nevada's Behavioral Health Crisis Care Hub, substance use residential treatment, enhanced early serious mental illness programs, and much more. We are proud of the work these funds allowed this community to do. We appreciate our partners for their continued and diligent work to get many programs off the ground and sustainable in a short amount of time.

All of that said, it is important for our partners and subawardees to understand that most, if not all, of these supplemental funds will expire by the end of 2025. The BBHWP's available funding will decrease dramatically over the course of the next nine months. The Bureau encourages you to use your normal Bureau award representative as a resource to ensure there is a sustainability plan in place for your organization. Please ensure your questions are answered over the next few months as the last of these supplemental dollars is spent.

While it is inevitable that a decrease in overall funding means program funding will need to be cut, the Bureau remains committed to finding ways to fund and support the incredible work of our community partners and other providers in developing new infrastructure to support the behavioral health of Nevadans.

With that in mind, the Bureau is currently working to develop a new strategic plan to align funding with the needs that are most critical to Nevadans across the state. This plan is expected to be finalized in late Summer of 2025 and will include the voices of community providers, subawardees, Bureau partners and, of course, Nevadan residents.

Over the next year, there will be numerous opportunities for funding through competitive requests for applications (RFAs) announced via the BBHWP's LISTSERV to fund programs out of the federal block grants and other funding sources. These RFAs are the vehicle to find the initiatives that align with the key priorities developed by the Bureau's upcoming strategic plan, and it is imperative that

partners apply for these RFAs as they are able, particularly if they are interested in receiving continued funding.

Please visit [our website](#) and follow the directions at the bottom of the page to sign up for the LISTSERV to ensure your organization stays up to date.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We appreciate all your hard work to improve Nevada's behavioral health care.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Shannon Bennett
Health Bureau Chief
Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention

Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention

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ALL IN