



**Division of Mental Health**

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

March 4, 2022

Dear community hospital partners,

In October 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 admissions pause occurring at the SOPH.

We allocated \$1M toward the original program which ended on December 31, 2021 but did not expend the full amount. For a second time, DMH is broadening the window of eligibility for this program, which will now cover admissions that occurred between July 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022.

**It is important to note that all requests need to be received, contracts issues and invoices submitted by April 30, 2022 to be eligible for funding for this program.**

The criteria and procedures for participating remain as follows:

- The timeframe covered by the program is July 1, 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](mailto:Teresa.Glaze@illinois.gov)

If you have contractual questions after eligibility is approved, please email Jason Buckhold at [Jason.buckhold@illinois.gov](mailto:Jason.buckhold@illinois.gov).

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

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