



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: Executive Director, Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers
Executive Directors, Local Mental Health Authorities
Executive Director, Disability Rights Texas
Members of the Local Area Network Advisory Committee (LANAC)
Members of the Council for Advising and Planning for the Prevention and
Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders (CAP)

FROM: Lauren Lacefield Lewis, Acting Director *LL*
Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Program Services

SUBJECT: CMS NEWS: CMS Announces Opportunity to Apply for Marketplace Navigator
Grants

With the October 2014 implementation of the Affordable Care Act, particularly the new Federal Exchange Marketplaces where the uninsured whose income is 100% to 400% of the federal poverty guideline will have the opportunity to shop for and compare insurance benefits and costs before purchasing an insurance plan. As part of the implementation plan, "Navigators" will be used as a resource for assisting eligible individuals understand new coverage options as they enroll.

The department is receiving information about how the Exchanges will operate and is contemplating the impact on services provided by local mental health authorities (LMHAs). In the current Charges for Community-Based Services rule (Chapter 412, Subchapter C), LMHAs are required to assist individuals enroll in Medicaid. In a similar fashion, it is anticipated that LMHAs will be asked to assist and support individuals who are potentially eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan. Therefore, the department encourages LMHAs to become Navigators to support this important activity.

Recently the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced the availability of new funding to support Navigators in Federal Exchange Marketplaces and LMHAs may want to apply for the Grant. Applications are due June 7, 2013. To access the funding opportunity announcement, visit: <http://www.grants.gov>, and search for CFDA # 93.750.

To access the proposed rule released April 3, 2013, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-04-05/pdf/2013-07951.pdf>

For more information about Navigators, including continuing updates, visit:
<http://cciio.cms.gov/programs/exchanges/assistance.html>