



**To:** All BHA grant recipients

**From:** Behavioral Health Administration

**Date:** December 18, 2025

**RE:** **Notice: Clarification of State Plan Goals and SAMHSA Priorities**

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This notice applies to all currently executed and future MDH grants, both state and federal.

It has long been standard for the MDH Conditions of Award / Statement of Work (COA/SOW) to reflect the state's health plan goals in the requirement that "[t]he Award Recipient shall ensure their vendors work to actively address health disparities, gaps in care and gaps in equity among the providers selected. Award Recipients and their vendors must ensure they are rendering services that are culturally and linguistically competent and appropriate."

To remain consistent with SAMHSA's updated strategic priorities, which include moving beyond addressing health disparities and focusing on solution-oriented approaches that benefit all individuals<sup>1</sup>, MDH amends the above language, wherever it is found in the COA/SOW, and updates it to the following:

"The Award Recipient shall ensure their vendors work to actively improve access to behavioral healthcare. Award Recipients and their vendors must ensure they are rendering services that meet the needs of each person served, accounting for individual differences, community context, and regional characteristics."

This updated language should be included in all new COA/SOWs and this addendum should be attached to all current COA/SOWs to clarify that MDH's priorities and goals for grant recipients remain consistent with SAMHSA's updated strategic priorities in working to achieve better health outcomes for all.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SAMHSA. SAMHSA Strategic Priorities. <https://www.samhsa.gov/about/strategic-priorities>. Accessed 2 December 2025

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