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# Frequently Asked Questions

Independent Mental Health Practitioners

## Behavioral Health Voucher Program (BHVP) – Reimbursable Services

<p><b>Who is eligible to receive a voucher?</b></p>	<p>Individuals must be South Dakota residents who require treatment due to their qualifying conditions and attest they do not have another payer for service or have financial hardship considerations that inhibit their ability to pay for services.</p> <p><b><i>The goal of this project is to eliminate funding as a barrier for service for individuals seeking assistance.</i></b></p> <p>Order of payment is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 – Insurance / other payer</li><li>2 – Self pay if possible</li><li>3 – Discretionary grant funds supporting the voucher program</li></ol>
<p><b>What documentation is required to support an individual's eligibility for services?</b></p>	<p>Documentation of a client's eligibility is captured on a simple form that is available to participating providers. The form serves as attestation that the services are not covered by public or commercial health insurance for that individual, or that the individual is experiencing financial circumstances that impacts their ability to pay for needed services.</p>
<p><b>Are services limited to adults?</b></p>	<p>No - this funding supports services for youth and adults.</p>



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<p><b>What types of services are allowable through a voucher?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any clinically appropriate, evidence-based mental health service for which your agency/clinicians are trained to deliver, up to a maximum of <b>8</b> sessions per voucher.</li><li>• The BHVP is intended to provide short-term problem resolution related to the qualifying condition(s); referrals for long-term treatment needs should be facilitated before the final session.</li><li>• Services are limited to individual sessions (no groups) at this time.</li></ul>
<p><b>Can services be conducted virtually?</b></p>	<p>Services can be provided via in-person or through telemedicine. Note that Audio Only is to be used as a means of last resort to ensure access to treatment, not for the convenience of the provider or recipient.</p>
<p><b>How will we be reimbursed for services delivered through the voucher program?</b></p>	<p>Reimbursement is done on a monthly basis, referencing the voucher number(s) presently being served at your organization. Reimbursement aligns with established rates (see Rate Sheet – Recovery Support Services, and Rate Sheet – Treatment Services). Payments are processed off an invoice sent from your agency that reflects the voucher number, services delivered through that voucher (appointment type, units billed, etc), and includes attestation from you that the required data collection was complete. An invoice template can be provided to enrolled providers that you can populate or use to modify your own invoice format should you use an accounting software platform to facilitate billing.</p>



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<p><b>How many sessions are covered by a voucher?</b></p>	<p>The number of sessions can vary based on the needs of the client, based on assessment by the provider. However, because the BHVP is intended to support short-term treatment for qualifying individuals, treatment sessions per voucher will be limited to <b>8</b> or fewer sessions. Treatment session frequency is expected to occur no more than once weekly. Refer to the BHVP Treatment Guidelines for additional information.</p> <p>One voucher will be issued per client.</p>
<p><b>What are the rates for service?</b></p>	<p>Rates are based on the currently approved rate structure for Mental Health services as issued by the Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Social Services, with additional funds included to reflect the data collection requirements. Initial appointment/assessment and data collection add-on rates are bundled payments to include time spent completing required data collection. Follow-up appointments follow a 15-minute unit model for behavioral health services. See Rate Sheet – Recovery Support Services, and Rate Sheet – Treatment Services for guidance about rounding of units.</p>
<p><b>How much funding will we be able to receive for vouchers?</b></p>	<p>Contract amounts are determined by available funds as well as past utilization, if a past provider. This amount may be adjusted if need exceeds the funding initially obligated but is dependent upon available funding. Amendments to contract amounts are not guaranteed, and if allowed, may take 4-8 weeks to process, so provider monitoring of expenditures is expected.</p>



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<p><b>Who can provide services through the voucher program?</b></p>	<p>Mental health services can be delivered by mental health professionals with active licensure in South Dakota, limited to the following credentials: LCSW-PIP, LCSW-PIP candidates, CNS-MH, LPC-MH, LPC working on MH, MFT, LP, Psychiatrists, and other Advanced Practice Providers (APP) working in behavioral health.</p> <p>A mental health provider must have an individual National Provider Identification (NPI) number and may not provide services under another provider's or an employer's NPI number. An individual who does not meet the certification or licensure requirements of the applicable profession may not enroll as a mental health provider or participate in the delivery of mental health services.</p>
<p><b>What clinical processes do I need to adhere to as an independent practitioner in this program?</b></p>	<p>Documentation required to support services includes an integrated assessment and treatment plan that must be developed in accordance with ARSD 67:16:41:04 and 67:16:41:06, and progress note documentation in accordance with 67:16:41:08.</p>



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## Voucher Program - Logistics & Data Collection

<p><b>Where can providers access a voucher for a client?</b></p>	<p>Providers can request vouchers by calling 211, or by filling out a voucher issuance form made available to enrolled providers. This process will generate an email to the provider and to the client indicating a voucher has been issued.</p>
<p><b>Is data collection required, and what tool?</b></p>	<p>Yes – the discretionary grants supporting the voucher program each require a data collection tool in compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Information is required for each client at intake, 6 months post intake and upon discharge from services. The information is captured in the form of an interview with the client, and time spent facilitating that interview and entering the data into the online data collection system is reimbursable. See the Rate Sheet – Treatment Services for Data Collection Add-On Rates.</p> <p>The specific tools include the <a href="#">CSAT GPRA questionnaire</a> and the CMHS NOMs (<a href="#">adult</a> and <a href="#">adolescent</a>).</p>
<p><b>Where will the data need to be entered?</b></p>	<p>Web-based data collection systems are available. Paper forms may certainly be used during the client interviews, but data must be entered into the online tool for transmission back to the state, who ultimately reports it to SAMHSA.</p>



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**What if I am unable to reach my client for the required follow-up or discharge interviews?**

Providers are expected to make every effort to contact clients for the required interviews, as a condition of the federal funding supporting the BHVP. However, it is recognized that that is not feasible in every circumstance. In the event a client cannot be reached for interview, the follow-up attempt should be noted on the monthly receipt form with reason provided. In the event a client is no longer receiving services and a discharge interview was not conducted (e.g., client withdraws from treatment) the provider is required to conduct an administrative discharge using the appropriate tool, which will capture treatment services delivered and the last date of services.

**For More Information Contact**

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