Frequently Asked Questions

What is a substance use disorder?
A substance use disorder is a disease that occurs when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes significant impairments. Impairments may include health problems, disability and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school or home.

What is an assessment?
An assessment includes an interview with a trained clinician to review a person’s substance use and its impact on daily life.

How are services determined?
An addiction counselor recommends treatment services based on an assessment with the individual.

How are services funded?
A variety of funding options are available for an individual who is assessed as needing services. Funding options include the following:

- Insurance
- Private pay
- Other 3rd party payers
- Medicaid
- Combination of state and federal funding

Is there a program to help pay for medications for behavioral health disorders?
The Indigent Medication Program provides temporary funding for medications to treat behavioral health disorders for individuals whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. For additional questions regarding the Indigent Medication Program, email dssbhindmed@state.sd.us or call 605.773.3123.

Are telehealth services available?
Yes, outpatient services are able to be delivered via telehealth.

Contact Us
For questions or more information, please contact the Division of Behavioral Health online at dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/, by phone at 1.855.878.6057 or by email at DSSBH@state.sd.us

To find Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services in Your Area:

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor’s Drive, Pierre, SD 57501, 605.773.3305.

Español (Spanish) - ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).
Deutsch (German) - ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).
Substance Use Disorder Services

The Division of Behavioral Health accredits and contracts with substance use disorder agencies across the state to provide quality services to both adults and youth. Services include screenings and assessments, early intervention, detoxification, outpatient and inpatient treatment. Financial assistance for services is available.

Outpatient Treatment Services
Outpatient treatment services provide counseling services to individuals diagnosed with substance use disorders. Also available on an outpatient basis are early intervention services for individuals who may have substance use related problems, but are not diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

Low Intensity Residential Treatment Services
Low intensity residential treatment services include residential, peer-oriented treatment programs for individuals with substance use disorders whose living situation or recovery environment is incompatible with recovery goals. To prepare the client to live successfully in the community, the program provides substance use disorder counseling along with case management services.

Inpatient Treatment Services
Inpatient treatment services provide residential services with medically monitored intensive treatment for individuals with severe substance use disorders.

Detoxification Treatment Services
Detoxification treatment services provide residential services delivered by trained staff who provide 24-hour supervision, observation and support for individuals who are intoxicated or experiencing withdrawal symptoms. Staff work to engage the individual in further treatment services following stabilization of withdrawal symptoms.

Specialized Treatment Services
Specialized treatment services are available for pregnant women, women with dependent children and individuals in need of intensive methamphetamine treatment.

How do I find help?

1. Contact a local treatment provider
2. A trained clinician completes an assessment
3. The individual is recommended and referred to services

Resources for Local Treatment Providers
• SAMHSA Treatment Locator - findtreatment.samhsa.gov/
• DSS - dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/agencycounty.aspx