

Part 2: Partnering to Strengthen the Behavioral Health Infrastructure and Capacity in Communities of Color

Resources and more information at: share.nned.net/2021/05/nned-vr2021-funding

Hosted by the NNEd National Facilitation Center and SAMHSA's Office of Behavioral Health Equity, in partnership with SAMHSA's Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network Coordinating Office, this roundtable explored new ways to tap into philanthropic support, governmental funding, and insurance reimbursements to meet the behavioral health needs of racially/ethnically diverse communities. Panelists included (see biographies at nned.net/8807/#panelists):



Infrastructure Challenges for CBOs

- Staff turnover rates for behavioral health services are high
- Necessary accreditation/certification for staff to provide services requires a heavy lift
- Infrastructure and operational capacity for licensure and certification requirements is not adequately supported
- Transitioning services to telehealth can be difficult
- Providing bilingual and culturally specific services costs more and are underfunded

Strategies for Funders

- Build authentic relationships with CBOs by holding listening sessions with communities
- Consider reallocation of funds from open grants to address areas of need (behavioral health) or cover expenditures of emerging issues (COVID-19)
- Limit administrative burden on CBOs and providers
- Be transparent about changes with grants and able to have conversations openly
- Offer capacity-building for smaller CBOs such as covering costs for professional development training or higher education for staff
- Be flexible and view compensation through an equity lens
- Fund CBOs in areas of need including staffing, operations, and building/facility maintenance

Strategies for CBOs

- Communicate your value within the community and showcase the importance of your work to funders
- Create a shared understanding of language between partners
- Build community partnerships with other CBOs to leverage strengths and to be more competitive in grant application processes
- Reach out to funders to build relationships even if a grant is not available
- Join a collaborative coalition or professional organization to share knowledge and resources, and learn about previous or existing work
- Research your state's reimbursement, licensure, and accreditation guidelines for providing behavioral health services
- Request that local governments provide higher pay to multilingual behavioral health staff providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services through a "culture and language reimbursement" differential
- Determine if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 1135 Waiver, which allows for flexibilities in Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) requirements during a public health emergency, can apply to and benefit your organization

Participants

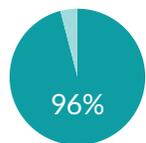
The roundtable was hosted on Zoom and streamed on Facebook Live.



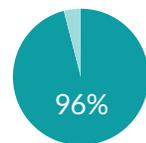
733 participants 387 people reached
1324 registrants 187 views
55% attendance rate 71 engagements

Survey Results

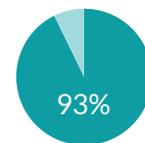
Following the roundtable, participants were asked to fill out a survey on their experience. 124 attendees responded to the feedback survey (17%).



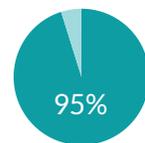
This virtual roundtable was informative



The dialogue increased my knowledge of the subject



Information provided could be useful to my work



The structure was effective for raising questions and getting information

▲ Strongly Agree / Agree ▲ Strongly Disagree / Disagree