

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2023 **AGENDA ITEM:** E

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Timothy Polasik, Field Representative, timothy.polasik@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program, Request for Proposals:
Requesting Approval

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to release a new Request for Proposals (Attachment E-1) in the amount of \$10 million for a three-year Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant. Eligible applicants are California counties.

Background

Assembly Bill 653 (AB 653) (Chapter 745, Statutes of 2021) was approved by Governor Newsom on October 9, 2021 (Attachment E-2). This bill created the Medication-Assisted Treatment Grant Program to be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections. Grants shall be awarded to counties on a competitive basis for purposes relating to the treatment of substance use disorders and the provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The bill requires grant-funded counties to collect and maintain data on the effectiveness of the program. County data will be compiled into a final report to the Legislature describing the activities funded by the grant program and the success of those activities in reducing drug overdoses and recidivism by people housed in jail and people under criminal justice supervision.¹

On September 6, 2022, Governor Newsom approved Assembly Bill 179 (AB 179) (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) (Attachment E-3), amending the Budget Act of 2022 to include \$10 million in funding for the previously established MAT Grant Program. Assembly Bill 653 authorized the BSCC to use up to five percent of the funds appropriated towards the costs of administering the program. (Pen. Code, § 6047.1, subd. (f).)

At the November 14, 2022 Board Meeting, staff requested approval to convene an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to guide the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP). Since then, the launch of the MAT Grant Program was delayed due to the lack of ESC participation and prioritization of other grant programs.

In order to expedite release to the field, instead of the ESC process, staff developed the MAT RFP in-house, relying on guidance from subject matter experts. In lieu of an ESC, staff requests that a Scoring Panel be convened to read and rate the proposals submitted in response to this RFP. If necessary, internal staff may also be used to supplement the Scoring Panel.

¹ "Criminal justice supervision" means probation, postrelease community supervision, and mandatory supervision. (Pen. Code, § 6047, subd. (a).)

Key Grant Components

MAT is statutorily defined as the “use of any United States Food and Drug Administration-approved medically assisted therapy to treat a substance use disorder . . . whenever possible, provided through a program licensed or certified by the State Department of Health Care Services.” (Pen. Code, § 6047, subd. (b).) Funds may be used for the following activities:

1. Salaries and related costs for the placement of substance use disorder counselors in county jails that provide medication-assisted treatment to inmates with a substance use disorder.
 2. Doses of medication related to substance use disorder for inmates to take home upon release from county jail.
 3. Funding for services provided pursuant to contracts between county jail health providers and narcotic treatment providers.
 4. Mobile crisis teams of behavioral health professionals that can respond with law enforcement to mental health or other health crisis calls. Mobile response activities funded pursuant to this section shall include referrals for substance use disorder treatment and medication-assisted treatment for individuals under criminal justice supervision when clinically appropriate.
 5. Salary and related costs for providing medication-assisted treatment for persons who are under criminal justice supervision.
 6. Funding to increase capacity for community-based, medication-assisted treatment and substance use disorder treatment services for justice-involved individuals, or to improve care coordination and connections to medication-assisted treatment services upon release from correctional facilities. Activities may include, but are not limited to, capital expenditures or operating costs to establish new reentry centers or treatment programs that will serve justice-involved populations, expansion of existing community-based, medication-assisted treatment services to better meet the needs of justice-involved individuals, and other strategies to ensure timely and appropriate access to medication-assisted treatment upon release.
-

RFP Activities and Timeline

The proposed activities and a corresponding tentative timeline for the development of the MAT Grant Program is shown below:

| Activity | Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Present RFP for Board Approval | November 16, 2023 |
| Release RFP | December 1, 2023 |
| Grant Information Session for Prospective Applicants | December 13, 2023 |
| Proposals Due to the BSCC | February 16, 2024 |
| Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations | February to March 2024 |
| Present Funding Recommendations to Board | April 18, 2024 |
| Grants Begin | May 1, 2024 |
| Grants End | October 31, 2027 |

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

- Approve the release of the MAT Request for Proposals.
- Allow staff to convene a Scoring Panel for the proposal rating process, to include BSCC staff as necessary.

Attachments

- E-1: MAT Request for Proposals
 E-2: Assembly Bill 653, in pertinent part (2021)
 E-3: Assembly Bill 179 (2022)