



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Department of Mental Health

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Nancy J. Williams, LCSW-R, Commissioner

October 9, 2020

RE: OASAS, OMH, and OPWDD State Aid Funding – Withholding for Q4

Dear Provider,

As part of the 2020-2021 NYS Budget Control Plan to address the unprecedented fiscal challenges related to the COVID-19 public health crisis, pursuant to the authority set forth in Section 1(f) of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020-21 Aid to Localities Budget Bill, OASAS, OMH and OPWDD have been instructed to *Withhold* a portion of payments to Local Governmental Units (LGUs) for Quarter 4. *Withholds* are not considered permanent funding cuts nor a modification to the program budget. For OASAS, *Withholds* will occur under State Funding Code 013S. There are no withholdings to payments under Federal Funding Code 013F -- Federal SAPT Block Grant. For OMH, *Withholds* will occur under various State Funding Codes, with the exception of residential programs coded as 6050 and 6060. There are no withholdings to payments under Federal Funding Codes. For OPWDD, *Withholds* will occur for all State Funding Codes.

The Mental Health Department remains committed to serving the behavioral health needs of Broome County residents and working collaboratively with our community partners who provide these essential services. In order to align with the state's decision to *Withhold* funds, it will be necessary for Broome County Department of Mental Health to reduce Quarter 4 funding for providers as determined by State Agency directives. OASAS, OMH, and OPWDD have advised, "*if the State receives sufficient Federal relief to address the budget gaps,*" provider agencies can "*expect to restore these funds through a supplemental payment.*" The Department encourages providers to examine programs (1) that could increase revenue from another source (e.g. Medicaid-reimbursable services), (2) demonstrate a history of underutilization, (3) may experience current staff vacancies, or (4) may be able to access other resources such as grants or fundraising.

Both OASAS and OMH require close collaboration in these funding decisions between providers and the DCS. The *Withholds* are a percentage of the total Quarter 4 funding. To assist all providers with the *Withhold*, the Department supports a collective information exchange. Questions submitted to this email: MHContracts@broomecounty.us will be posted with answers to in a *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* document located on the Department page of the County website here: <https://gobroomecounty.com/mh/performancemanagement>.

Broome County LGU asks each agency to provide information (narrative and/or spreadsheet) on how your 2020 Contract Year Staffing, Program Budget, and Services will be affected by

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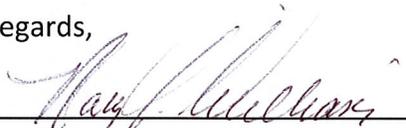
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these *Withholds*. Please submit this information via email to: MHContracts@broomecounty.us by 5:00pm on Friday, October 16, 2020.

We understand how difficult it has been over the last few months. We value and appreciate your efforts to meet the needs of our community during this unprecedented pandemic. We believe that through our continued partnership and collaboration, we will successfully face this and future challenges.

Regards,



Nancy J. Williams, LCSW-R
Commissioner

Sent to: Executive Director via email
 Chief Fiscal Officer via email