

## Region 5 Systems

### Network Management Policies

Effective: RGB 11/05/18

Revised:

## ■ Emergency Flexible Funding Policy

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Emergency flex funds may be utilized for goods and/or services that assist a consumer with stabilization or prevention of a crisis situation.

To be eligible for emergency system flex funds, the supports provided must be related to achieving one or more of the following priorities and desired outcomes:

1. Resolution of a consumer's crisis and stabilization in the community such that a higher level of care will not be required.
2. Prevention of an individual being taken into Emergency Protective Custody, placed under a Mental Health Board Commitment, or the need for a higher level of care.
3. Successful and timely transition of a consumer in Emergency Protective Custody or a higher level of care to the community.
4. A reduction in the number of times a consumer requires Emergency Protective Custody action.
5. A reduction in a consumer's recidivism to higher levels of care.
6. Voluntary treatment by the consumer.

Emergency flex funds are available to consumers who are financially eligible for Region 5 Systems funding and registered or authorized for a Region 5 Systems-funded service in the Centralized Data System (CDS). The consumer's name must be documented on the Turn Around Document (TAD) for the applicable service for the month the expenditure was incurred.

Eligible flex fund categories include:

1. **Transportation**-may include gas or expenses to use the most economical form of public transportation to facilitate attending necessary treatment related appointments.
2. **Housing**-may include a one-time deposit, first month's rent, or unpaid rent that will aid the consumer in obtaining or keeping permanent housing.
3. **Utilities**-may be considered if necessary to prevent removal from existing housing. If a shut off notice has been issued the funds will be used to pay the amount needed to satisfy the shut off notice not the entire bill. Copies of the bill and shut-off notice must be included in the request for funds.
4. **Food**-may include food items that are identified as urgent and necessary in nature. Food banks, churches etc. should be utilized first.
5. **Clothing**-may include clothing that is identified as urgent and necessary in nature. Consumers should be directed to retailers where the most effective use of funds can be made i.e. thrift shops, discount stores.
6. **Emergencies**-may include expenses related to resolution of consumer crisis/emergency that is considered critical in maintaining the consumer's overall well-being and preventing admission to

a higher level of care.

7. **Laboratory Work**-may include laboratory fees related to prescribed medications.
8. **Medications**-may include prescription medications not available through Prescription Assistance Programs, LB95, or samples, or for the period of transition in securing medications through these means. This may include medications for purposes of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), including but not limited to nicotine replacement therapy (NRTs).

Flex funds may not be used:

1. To pay for items that are included in the service rate.
2. To pay for physical health medication or devices i.e. hearing aids, eyeglasses, contacts, life alert etc.
3. To pay for physical health appointments (i.e. dental, eye, hearing, physicals).
4. To pay for memberships (i.e. gym memberships).
5. To pay for therapeutic animals or training of animals.
6. To pay for storage or storage fees.
7. To pay for items that are not pertinent to treatment and recovery.
8. To pay for inpatient treatment.
9. To pay for residential treatment.

Flex funds should be used as a last resort; the provider and consumer shall exhaust all other options available in the community before requesting flex funds and provide adequate documentation within the record of persons served to demonstrate these efforts.

Flex funds are time-limited and may not be used for ongoing or extended periods of time. Flex funds may not be used for more than three consecutive months by the same consumer in the same category i.e. housing, transportation, medications etc. Flex funds are not to exceed \$1,000 per consumer per fiscal year, July 1-June 30.

Requests for exceptions to this policy will be accepted for consideration by Region 5 Systems on a case-by-case basis.

**See corresponding procedures for “Emergency Flexible Funding”**