

**254B.04 ELIGIBILITY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUND SERVICES.**

Subdivision 1. **Scope and applicability.** This section governs the administration of the behavioral health fund, establishes the criteria to be applied by local agencies to determine a client's financial eligibility under the behavioral health fund, and determines a client's obligation to pay for substance use disorder treatment services.

Subd. 1a. **Client eligibility.** (a) Persons eligible for benefits under Code of Federal Regulations, title 25, part 20, who meet the income standards of section 256B.056, subdivision 4, and are not enrolled in medical assistance, are entitled to behavioral health fund services. State money appropriated for this paragraph must be placed in a separate account established for this purpose.

(b) Persons with dependent children who are determined to be in need of substance use disorder treatment pursuant to an assessment under section 260E.20, subdivision 1, or in need of chemical dependency treatment pursuant to a case plan under section 260C.201, subdivision 6, or 260C.212, shall be assisted by the commissioner to access needed treatment services. Treatment services must be appropriate for the individual or family, which may include long-term care treatment or treatment in a facility that allows the dependent children to stay in the treatment facility. The county shall pay for out-of-home placement costs, if applicable.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), any person enrolled in medical assistance or MinnesotaCare is eligible for room and board services under section 254B.0505, subdivision 1, clause (9).

(d) A client is eligible to have substance use disorder treatment paid for with funds from the behavioral health fund when the client:

- (1) is eligible for MFIP as determined under chapter 142G;
- (2) is eligible for medical assistance as determined under Minnesota Rules, parts 9505.0010 to 9505.0140;
- (3) is eligible for general assistance, general assistance medical care, or work readiness as determined under Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.1200 to 9500.1272; or
- (4) has income that is within current household size and income guidelines for entitled persons, as defined in this subdivision and subdivision 7.

(e) Clients who meet the financial eligibility requirement in paragraph (a) and who have a third-party payment source are eligible for the behavioral health fund if the third-party payment source pays less than 100 percent of the cost of treatment services for eligible clients.

(f) A client is ineligible to have substance use disorder treatment services paid for with behavioral health fund money if the client:

- (1) has an income that exceeds current household size and income guidelines for entitled persons as defined in this subdivision and subdivision 7; or
- (2) has an available third-party payment source that will pay the total cost of the client's treatment.

(g) A client who is disenrolled from a state prepaid health plan during a treatment episode is eligible for continued treatment service that is paid for by the behavioral health fund until the treatment episode is completed or the client is re-enrolled in a state prepaid health plan if the client:

- (1) continues to be enrolled in MinnesotaCare, medical assistance, or general assistance medical care;
- or

(2) is eligible according to paragraphs (a) and (b) and is determined eligible by the commissioner under section 254B.04.

(h) When a county commits a client under chapter 253B to a regional treatment center for substance use disorder services and the client is ineligible for the behavioral health fund, the county is responsible for the payment to the regional treatment center according to section 254B.0501, subdivision 3.

(i) Persons enrolled in MinnesotaCare are eligible for room and board services when provided through intensive residential treatment services and residential crisis services under section 256B.0632.

(j) A person is eligible for one 60-consecutive-calendar-day period per year. A person may submit a request for additional eligibility to the commissioner. A person denied additional eligibility under this paragraph may request a state agency hearing under section 256.045.

*[See Note.]*

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1989 c 155 s 5]

Subd. 2a. **Eligibility for room and board services for persons in outpatient substance use disorder treatment.** A person eligible for room and board services under section 254B.0505, subdivision 1, must score at level 4 on assessment dimensions related to readiness to change, relapse, continued use, or recovery environment in order to be assigned to services with a room and board component reimbursed under this section. Whether a treatment facility has been designated an institution for mental diseases under United States Code, title 42, section 1396d, shall not be a factor in making placements.

*[See Note.]*

Subd. 2b. MS 2022 [Repealed, 2023 c 50 art 2 s 63]

Subd. 2c. MS 2022 [Repealed, 2023 c 50 art 2 s 63]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 2014 c 262 art 3 s 18]

Subd. 4. **Assessment criteria and risk descriptions.** (a) The level of care determination must follow criteria approved by the commissioner.

(b) Dimension 1: Acute intoxication and withdrawal potential. A vendor must use the following criteria in Dimension 1 to determine a client's acute intoxication and withdrawal potential, the client's ability to cope with withdrawal symptoms, and the client's current state of intoxication.

(c) Dimension 2: Biomedical conditions and complications. The vendor must use the following criteria in Dimension 2 to determine a client's biomedical conditions and complications, the degree to which any physical disorder of the client would interfere with treatment for substance use, and the client's ability to tolerate any related discomfort. If the client is pregnant, the provider must determine the impact of continued substance use on the unborn child.

(d) Dimension 3: Emotional, behavioral, and cognitive conditions and complications. The vendor must use the following criteria in Dimension 3 to determine a client's emotional, behavioral, and cognitive conditions and complications; the degree to which any condition or complication is likely to interfere with treatment for substance use or with functioning in significant life areas; and the likelihood of harm to self or others.

(e) Dimension 4: Readiness for change. The vendor must use the following criteria in Dimension 4 to determine a client's readiness for change and the support necessary to keep the client involved in treatment services.

(f) Dimension 5: Relapse, continued use, and continued problem potential. The vendor must use the following criteria in Dimension 5 to determine a client's relapse, continued use, and continued problem potential and the degree to which the client recognizes relapse issues and has the skills to prevent relapse of either substance use or mental health problems.

(g) Dimension 6: Recovery environment. The vendor must use the following criteria in Dimension 6 to determine a client's recovery environment, whether the areas of the client's life are supportive of or antagonistic to treatment participation and recovery.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner responsibility to provide administrative services.** The commissioner of human services may employ individuals to conduct administrative activities and facilitate access to substance use disorder treatment services.

*[See Note.]*

Subd. 6. **Commissioner to determine client financial eligibility.** (a) The commissioner shall determine a client's financial eligibility for the behavioral health fund according to section 254B.04, subdivision 1a, with the income calculated prospectively for one year from the date of request. The commissioner shall pay for eligible clients according to chapter 256G. Client eligibility must be determined using only forms prescribed by the commissioner. To determine a client's eligibility, the commissioner must determine the client's income, the size of the client's household, the availability of a third-party payment source, and a responsible relative's ability to pay for the client's substance use disorder treatment.

(b) A client who is a minor child must not be deemed to have income available to pay for substance use disorder treatment, unless the minor child is responsible for payment under section 144.347 for substance use disorder treatment services sought under section 144.343, subdivision 1.

(c) The commissioner must determine the client's household size as follows:

(1) if the client is a minor child, the household size includes the following persons living in the same dwelling unit:

- (i) the client;
- (ii) the client's birth or adoptive parents; and
- (iii) the client's siblings who are minors; and

(2) if the client is an adult, the household size includes the following persons living in the same dwelling unit:

- (i) the client;
- (ii) the client's spouse;
- (iii) the client's minor children; and
- (iv) the client's spouse's minor children.

For purposes of this paragraph, household size includes a person listed in clauses (1) and (2) who is in an out-of-home placement if a person listed in clause (1) or (2) is contributing to the cost of care of the person in out-of-home placement.

(d) The commissioner must determine the client's current prepaid health plan enrollment, the availability of a third-party payment source, including the availability of total payment, partial payment, and amount of co-payment.

(e) The commissioner shall require the client and policyholder to conditionally assign to the department the client and policyholder's rights and the rights of minor children to benefits or services provided to the client if the department is required to collect from a third-party pay source.

(f) The commissioner must determine a client's eligibility for the behavioral health fund for a 60-consecutive-calendar-day period per calendar year.

(g) A client, responsible relative, and policyholder must provide income or wage verification, household size verification, and must make an assignment of third-party payment rights under paragraph (e). If a client, responsible relative, or policyholder does not comply with the provisions of this subdivision, the client is ineligible for behavioral health fund payment for substance use disorder treatment, and the client and responsible relative must be obligated to pay for the full cost of substance use disorder treatment services provided to the client.

***[See Note.]***

Subd. 6a. **Span of eligibility.** The commissioner must enter the financial eligibility span within five business days of a request. If the comprehensive assessment is completed within the timelines required under chapter 245G, then the span of eligibility must begin on the date services were initiated. If the comprehensive assessment is not completed within the timelines required under chapter 245G, then the span of eligibility must begin on the date the comprehensive assessment was completed.

***[See Note.]***

Subd. 7. **Client fees.** A client whose household income is within current household size and income guidelines for entitled persons as defined in section 254B.04, subdivision 1a, must pay no fee for care related to substance use disorder, including drug screens.

Subd. 8. **Vendor must participate in DAANES system.** To be eligible for payment under the behavioral health fund, a vendor must participate in the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Normative Evaluation System (DAANES) or submit to the commissioner the information required in the DAANES in the format specified by the commissioner.

**History:** 1986 c 394 s 11; 1987 c 299 s 13; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 268; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 106; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 59; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 14; 1992 c 513 art 9 s 24; 1994 c 529 s 5; 1997 c 203 art 4 s 7; 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2; 1999 c 245 art 8 s 4; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 3 s 6; 2002 c 379 art 1 s 113; 1Sp2011 c 9 art 8 s 4; 2012 c 216 art 12 s 7; 2013 c 108 art 1 s 2; 2013 c 113 art 2 s 1; 2014 c 312 art 28 s 1; 2016 c 158 art 2 s 52; 2016 c 189 art 16 s 6; 1Sp2017 c 6 art 8 s 56,57; 2019 c 50 art 1 s 69; 1Sp2019 c 9 art 6 s 45,46; 1Sp2020 c 2 art 8 s 83; 2021 c 30 art 13 s 83; 2023 c 25 s 132; 2023 c 50 art 2 s 44-51; 2024 c 80 s art 7 s 12; 2024 c 108 art 4 s 18-21; 2024 c 127 art 61 s 13; 2025 c 38 art 7 s 4; 1Sp2025 c 9 art 4 s 27-30,55

**NOTE:** The amendments to subdivision 1a, paragraphs (b), (g), and (j), by Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 9, article 4, section 27, are effective July 1, 2026. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 9, article 4, section 27, the effective date.

**NOTE:** Subdivision 2a is repealed by Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 9, article 4, section 57, effective July 1, 2027. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 9, article 4, section 57, the effective date.

**NOTE:** The amendments to subdivisions 5, 6, and 6a by Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 9, article 4, sections 28 to 30, are effective July 1, 2026. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 9, article 4, sections 28 to 30, the effective dates.