

March 23, 2026 - **SAE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSULTING** IN THE NEWS

SAE Behavioral Health Consulting Outlines FY 2026 Funding Opportunities and Challenges



“This year’s HSS budget requests and associated planning documents suggest a period of recalibration, rather than expansion for expansion’s sake,” — Dr. Steven A. Estrine, Founder and President, SAE BHC.



Following the **Department of Health and Human Services’ (HSS)** guidelines for behavioral health funding in Fiscal Year 2026, **SAE Behavioral Health Consulting**, a leader in grant acquisitions for more than two decades, has announced a series of strategies. Starting with forecasts of **SAMSHA** opportunities – especially those related to **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)**, crisis services, and suicide prevention – are providing clarity into the types of funding that are available, as well as insights into what federal decision makers think about behavioral health systems, in general.

“This year’s HSS budget requests and associated planning documents suggest a period of recalibration, rather than expansion for expansion’s sake,” said **Steven A. Estrine, Ph.D.**, Founder and President, **SAE Behavioral Health Consulting**. *“The emphasis is less on launching new program categories and more about strengthening system performance, reducing fragmentation, and increasing accountability for outcomes. It is a pragmatic approach in which behavioral health is framed as a core component of whole-person and chronic disease strategies, rather than as a parallel or siloed system.”*

SAMHSA’s FY 2026 forecast points to a continued concentration of discretionary funding in areas that build system capacity,

rather than isolated services. Opportunities related to **CCBHC** planning, implementation and improvement also remain central to this strategy. As a result, programs that reinforce standardized models, integrated care approaches, and robust data and reporting practices are more aligned with funding opportunities.

Crisis services remain a second pillar of the **FY 2026 outlook**. Continued investment in 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifelines, along with crisis follow-up services, and suicide prevention initiatives reflects a maturing federal approach to crisis response. Funding signals suggest that crisis capacity is increasingly evaluated as part of a broader continuum, rather than a standalone function.

One theme that consistently appears in the current funding landscape is operational readiness. Federal grants are being directed to organizations demonstrating evidence-based practices, performance measurement, data integrity, and sustainability. Applicants are expected to demonstrate not only service need, but operational capacity.

The takeaway for executive leaders is clear: FY 2026 opportunities are likely to reward organizations that articulate a disciplined strategy, demonstrate readiness to manage operational and compliance risk, and show how proposed activities advance broader system goals instead of narrow program outputs.

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February 10, 2026 - **SAE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSULTING** IN THE NEWS

SAE BHC Brings National CCBHC Proposal and Evaluation Experience to Upcoming SAMHSA FY 2026 Funding Opportunities

“CCBHC funding requires more than a strong application — it requires readiness to implement and perform,” — Dr. Steven A. Estrine, Founder & CEO, SAE Behavioral Health Consulting.



The CCBHC Planning, Development, and Implementation (PDI) and CCBHC Improvement and Advancement (IA) grants are expected to support both new and existing CCBHCs nationwide and represent a significant federal investment in community behavioral health systems.

Since 2019, SAE has supported 19 CCBHC PDI or IA proposals and currently serves as the ongoing evaluator on 14 multi-year SAMHSA CCBHC awards. SAE's work spans proposal development, readiness planning, and long-term evaluation—supporting accountability, implementation, and sustainability.

“CCBHC funding requires more than a strong application — it requires readiness to implement and perform,” said Dr. Steven A. Estrine, Founder & CEO, SAE Behavioral Health Consulting. *“Our role extends beyond award notification to multi-year evaluation and performance support.”*

SAE partners with community providers nationwide to strengthen behavioral health systems through compliant, implementation-ready federal funding strategies.

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SAE Behavioral Health Consulting (“SAE”), a national behavioral health consulting firm, announced today its readiness to support community-based providers pursuing two newly forecasted SAMHSA Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) funding opportunities expected to be released in FY 2026.

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February 4, 2026 - **SAE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSULTING** IN THE NEWS

SAE Behavioral Health Consulting Expands Service Lines to Meet 2026 Needs



Leader in grant acquisition, compliance strategies, program evaluation, and performance improvement tackles challenging federal policy environment



In response to the current behavioral health environment and the increasingly pressing needs of provider agencies, SAE Behavioral Health Consulting (“SAE”) has expanded its long established service line offerings to better help provider agencies meet the difficult challenges they face to survive, sustain services to the most vulnerable populations of focus they serve, and grow.

In addition to providing grant writing, license acquisition services, parity compliance strategies, program evaluation and performance improvement protocols, SAE has expanded its grant writing team. It has also introduced an online behavioral health literacy program that is specifically geared to agency management and staff to significantly improve patient involvement and retention in agencies’ service provision. For the new year, SAE has teamed up with two marketing firms to enable individual behavioral health agencies promote awareness of their services in the communities they serve.

“For over two decades, we have been helping behavioral health agencies address the needs of vulnerable populations by providing targeted and useful services,” points out Steven A. Estrine, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, SAE Behavioral Health Consulting. “With recent government funding cutbacks, it is incumbent on us to deliver new solutions that can help agencies successfully compete for grants by becoming more efficient and sustainable.

“We have also retained additional grant writers who are able to meet the new, and egregiously reduced, deadline requirements for submissions. In some cases, we are using AI technology for even faster turnarounds.”

In 2026, SAE will also debut a podcast series, “The Best and the Brightest,” featuring interviews with leaders in the behavioral health space. The podcast additionally lays out “follow the money” strategies that offer useable information and critical tools for the integration of fiscal management with the development of targeted and effective service delivery.

Adds Dr. Estrine, “Behavioral health issues are unfortunately on the rise, due to scores of contributing issues. Our mission is to help good providers perform more effectively for the betterment of society.”

Since 2005, SAE Behavioral Health Consulting has secured more than \$480 million in local, state, and federal grants for behavioral health agencies.

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