

EXHIBIT 4

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards

All grantees receiving funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS), Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR), are required to begin a process of implementing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards. BPTR will guide grantees through a multiyear implementation process. Please see below for background on the CLAS Standards implementation process and requirements associated with this grant.

State and federal guidance

As a state that receives federal funds to serve the residents of Wisconsin in the behavioral health area, DHS is also mandated by federal requirements under laws such as the Affordable Care Act, Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In agreements for the provision of services to clients, grantees must comply with all federal civil rights laws applicable to service delivery requirements. The grantee agrees to meet state and federal civil rights compliance (CRC) laws, requirements, rules, and regulations, as they pertain to the services covered by this agreement. All grantees must submit the appropriate CRC documentation within 15 working days of the award date of the agreement or contract in accordance with the procedures outlined on the DHS website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/civil-rights/index.htm.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations requires implementation of the CLAS Standards.

The National CLAS Standards are a set of 15 action steps developed by the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services intended to advance health equity, improve the quality of services, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services. For more information on the National CLAS Standards, visit: www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas.

CLAS Standards implementation

The goal of CLAS Standards implementation is to introduce CLAS Standards to BPTR grantees and encourage uptake of the CLAS model into grantees' policies, procedures, and practices. The following are BPTR's requirements for implementation upon initiation of an applicable contract.

- Grantees will form or repurpose a team, either at program level or agency level, dedicated to CLAS implementation including agency leadership and governance.
- Grantees are expected to complete the CLAS Standards Assessment Planning Tool to identify the current application of the CLAS Standards within the grantee's program or agency. Contract administrators will ask to review the assessment document during site visits.
- Grantees are expected to complete a corresponding implementation plan based on the results of the assessment, highlighting up to two CLAS Standards to implement. The implementation plan is part of the CLAS Standards Assessment Planning Tool. The grantee's plan is expected to be reviewed and updated each contract year. Contract administrators will ask to review the implementation plan during site visits.

Outcomes for CLAS Standards implementation

- Grantee agencies and program administrators and staff will have an improved understanding of the CLAS Standards.
- Grantee agencies and programs will consider the CLAS Standards when systematic or programmatic changes are made with the grantee agency or program.
- Grantees will show improved application and implementation of CLAS Standards from year to year.
- Grantee programs and agencies will be able to identify specific outcomes resulting from the implementation of CLAS Standards.

Questions related to the implementation of the CLAS Standards can be directed to the BPTR contract administrator who oversees your agency/program contract.

Documents, forms, and other information related to the CLAS Standards implementation requirement can be found at:

- Mental health services providers: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mh/index.htm
- Substance use services providers: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aoda/partner.htm