

## Emergency COVID-19 Project Consent Form

**Introduction:** Welcome to the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 Grant. The Iowa Emergency COVID-19 grant is a 16-month Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) program funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA/CSAT).

**The goal of the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 Grant** is to improve the behavioral health of Iowans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Iowa Emergency COVID-19 program will help the state provide coordinated services and will provide you with treatment and recovery support services to assist in your recovery from mental health and/or substance use disorders. The goal is for you to have coordinated and comprehensive care to meet your behavioral health care needs.

**Information from the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 Grant project** will help local, state, and federal providers and funding authorities improve the way services are delivered for individuals with a mental health and/or substance use disorder who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We may ask you to answer a series of questions or to participate in health screenings that are part of your treatment plan with your healthcare providers. You may feel uncomfortable answering some of these questions. If you are uncomfortable with any of the questions or screenings, please talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or goals. Your participation in your treatment plan is strictly up to you.

**Benefits:** When persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders encounter additional challenges in accessing and engaging in care due to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional crisis support, treatment, and recovery supports are needed to help manage their health during and after these challenges. This approach may assist you to achieve better behavioral health outcomes. In addition, your participation in this program to meet your health goals may benefit others by helping us better identify if the way we provide your care has better outcomes or decreases problems related to use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

**Information you will receive from the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 Grant project:** Everyone participating will be asked to complete screening tools based on your own individual needs. Some tools may be for alcohol and drugs, some for depression and anxiety, and some may be for your medical conditions. You may feel uncomfortable answering some of these questions. If you are uncomfortable with any of the questions, you do not have to answer them. You will receive verbal communication about your screening scores and a staff member will discuss the program and, if you consent, will discuss with you the options available to you.

**Data Interviews:** If you consent to participate in the grant, you will be asked to take part in three GPRA (Government Performance Results Act) data interviews that take 15 to 45 minutes each; one at admission, one at 6 months following admission, and one at discharge from the program. GPRA interviews ask questions about alcohol and drug use, education and employment, family and living conditions, involvement in the criminal justice system, and participation in social support and recovery groups. This data will be used to monitor your involvement and potential benefit. The Data is

confidential and will not identify you by name. You will receive a \$30 dollar gift card for completing the GPRA 6 month follow-up interview.

**Release of Information:** As part of your involvement in this project, you are authorizing contact between IDPH, SAMHSA, and the involved site location staff where you're receiving services, to obtain information necessary for Iowa Emergency COVID-19 grant project management. This may include, but is not limited to, screening questionnaires, interviews, information related to fiscal reporting, quality improvement, client progress, and data collection. By signing this form you are authorizing release of information between you, IDPH, and SAMHSA. You may revoke your release of information at any time except to the extent that action has already been taken.

**Participation is voluntary:** You can refuse to participate in the program or leave at any time. Refusal to participate in the program will not affect any current or future services you receive at the site location. You may refuse to answer certain questions and still participate. If you refuse to answer a question, no one associated with the project will seek the information you did not provide from some other source. If you participate in the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 program and later choose not to participate, information you already have given will remain in the project.

**Risks and Confidentiality:** IDPH and your provider take privacy of your information seriously. Your providers, IDPH, and SAMHSA must comply with confidentiality and protected health information requirements as set forth in Federal and State Confidentiality Regulations (42 CFR, Part 2, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 45 CFR, 160 & 164). Your records are protected and cannot be disclosed without your written consent. Because the project involves coordination of services you want, providers will ask you to sign a release of information to allow them to talk with other providers. You may revoke your release of information at any time except to the extent that action has already been taken. Generally, a program may not condition your services on whether you sign a release of information, however, in the special circumstances of the voluntary Iowa Emergency COVID-19 program project; you cannot participate if you do not sign the Voluntary Consent Form. There are no foreseeable physical, medical, psychological, or legal risks involved in this project.

A unique identification number will be assigned to you as a project participant. Authorized representatives from IDPH may have access to records that identify you by name. Any information you provide that is part of aggregate data given to SAMHSA will not include your name or other identifying data. If any publications or presentations result from the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 project, you will not be identified.

**Client Rights:** You have the right to:

- appropriate and considerate care and protection
- recognition and consideration of your cultural and spiritual values
- be told of all available resources or referral needed for grant project services and providers
- refuse a recommended service or plan of care
- review records and information about your services
- expect providers, IDPH, and SAMHSA to keep all communications and records confidential

**Questions:** If you have questions or concerns about this project, contact Jennifer Robertson-Hill IDPH at 1-515-725-1053.

**I have received, read, and understand the Iowa Emergency COVID-19 grant- Voluntary Consent Form and all its contents. I agree to the conditions outlined above and choose to participate in this project.**

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Provider / Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_