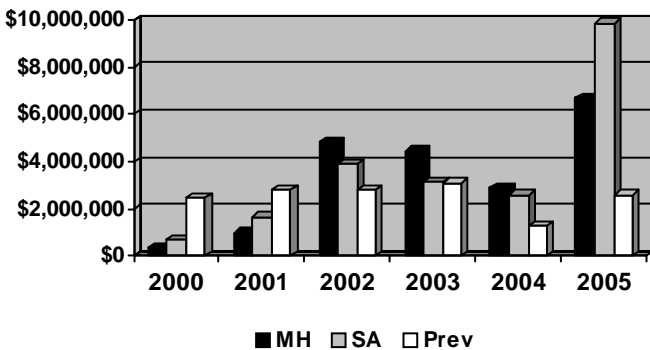


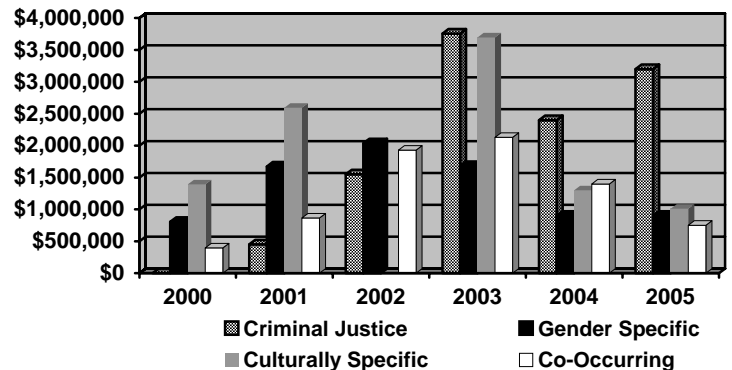
**EXPANDING A RESOURCE BASE FOR CONNECTICUT'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) set forth an aggressive resource development strategy in 1999 to support enhancements to its behavioral healthcare system. Our overarching goal has been to develop and maintain a quality-driven, recovery-oriented system of services. New service models and resources would be needed to achieve this. These efforts have been highly successful, as evidenced by **\$90 million in new federal awards** over the last few years. These funds enable DMHAS - in partnership with recovery communities, service providers, academic centers and other state agencies - **to support the implementation of innovative, quality-focused service strategies, increase prevention and treatment capacity, enhance recovery-oriented services, and support the development of specialty initiatives** to more effectively address the needs of women, persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, culturally diverse groups, and criminal justice populations.

**New Federal Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Prevention Grants**



**SPECIALTY INITIATIVES**



What factors have contributed to being so successful in securing these highly competitive awards?

- An increasingly shared vision and commitment to develop and implement a Recovery-Oriented system of services and an outstanding grant-development team that can effectively communicate the meaning and benefits of this vision.
- Leadership among executive and judicial branch heads who recognize the value of behavioral health prevention, treatment and recovery supports and how these relate to better education, employment, housing, physical health, economic development, family life, social service and criminal justice costs, and overall quality of life. They see that a mental health/substance abuse service strategy does **not** have to be **the agenda**. It must be **part of every agenda**.
- Partnerships among state agency staff and experienced service providers - including peer- and faith-based providers which result in collaborative applications, effective implementation and overall good management of the projects.
- Academic partnerships which support conducting assessment studies to identify the prevalence of substance use and estimated treatment need across the state. These data have been critical in documenting and supporting Connecticut's treatment needs. These academic links also yield evaluation studies, often required in federally funded projects.
- A key linchpin for success is support from the Governor, as the applicant for the larger federal grant awards.