

RFP: Expanding Access to Buprenorphine Treatment in Primary Care

OVERVIEW

On September 7th, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), in collaboration with Public Health Solutions (PHS), released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Expanding Access to Buprenorphine Treatment in Primary Care. Over \$1 million in total annual funding will be provided through this RFP for primary care practices to use a Nurse Care Manager (NCM) model to expand access to buprenorphine treatment. Applicants will hire an NCM to manage and coordinate care for patients receiving buprenorphine and designate a Buprenorphine Physician Champion to guide the integration of buprenorphine treatment into the primary care practice.

The RFP's overall goals are to:

- Increase the number of primary care providers who are trained and waived to prescribe buprenorphine;
- Increase the number of patients receiving buprenorphine for treatment of opioid use disorder in primary care settings where there is:
 - An unmet need for buprenorphine prescribing capacity, or
 - High morbidity and mortality from opioid use; and
- Demonstrating the effectiveness of the Nurse Care Manager model for treating opioid use disorder.

The full RFP is attached. Applications are due on October 12th.

FUNDING

DOHMH intends to award seven contracts through this RFP, with each successful applicant receiving \$150,000 annually. Funding provided through this RFP should be used to support the hiring of one full-time equivalent NCM. Up to ten percent of funding may also be used to support the administrative time of the required Buprenorphine Physician Champion who will work closely with the NCM on implementation and oversight of the program. Funds may not be used to purchase buprenorphine.

Funding will consist of milestone payments tied to the applicant's achievement of deliverables. Applicants are expected to support the NCM through third-party insurance revenue (including Medicaid) after the end of the contract. Contracts will last for three years beginning on January 1, 2018.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To qualify for funding under this RFP, the applicant must be located in New York City and be one of the following types of primary care centers:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs);
- FQHC look-alikes; and
- Other non-profit safety net providers whose patient volume is at least 35% Medicaid-eligible or uninsured.

In addition, all applicants must meet the following requirements to apply for funding under this RFP:

- Have at least four primary care prescribers (i.e., medical doctors, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants) who are currently not prescribing buprenorphine, but will become waived to prescribe during the first six months of the contract;
- Be able to bill Medicaid and/or commercial insurance for services;
- Have at least three years of successful experience managing and delivering primary care; and
- Demonstrate an unmet need in the service area for buprenorphine prescribing capacity and/or show high local morbidity and mortality from opioid use.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Experience (20 points)
- Initiative Services (60 points)
- Staffing Plan and Qualifications (10 points)
- Initiative Monitoring, Data Management and Reporting (5 points)
- Budget Management (5 points)

Application scores will be the average of independent scores made by at least three reviewers. DOHMH will make awards to the applicants who have the highest average score. Awardees must propose an annual budget less than or equal to \$150,000 for a 12-month contract period.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by October 12th. Applicants are recommended but not required to submit the Notice of Intent to Respond Form to buperfp@healthsolutions.org by October 5th.

There will be an optional Pre-Proposal Conference for applicants on September 25th from 10am to 12pm at Public Health Solutions (40 Worth Street, 5th Floor, Conference Room 5.2, New York, NY 10013) and interested parties may RSVP via email to buperfp@healthsolutions.org. For those who are unable to attend in person, the conference will be available by webinar and registration is available [here](#). Questions are due by September 25th to the email address above and will be addressed in a supplemental RFP. The supplemental RFP and conference slides will be posted on the PHS website under “Check Out Current RFPs” [here](#).