

RFA: Successfully Transitioning Youth to Adolescence (STYA)

OVERVIEW

On October 27th, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for organizations to provide services through the Successfully Transitioning Youth to Adolescence (STYA) Initiative. A total of approximately \$3.5 million in annual funding will be awarded to between 20 and 25 organizations to develop community-based programs that incorporate mentoring, counseling, and adult-supervised activities for preteen youth who are between 9 and 12 years old, including youth in foster care. Organizations should develop, enhance, or expand programs that support the following goals:

- Delay the onset of adolescent sexual activity;
- Decrease the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and childbearing;
- Promote the development of positive long-term relationships between adults and youth;
- Provide education to the parents, guardians, and caregivers of preteen youth to enhance their parenting skills; and
- Support a healthy transition to adolescence among preteen youth.

The full RFA is attached. Applications are due on December 20th.

FUNDING

Applicants may request an annual award amount between \$100,000 and \$300,000. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to fund at least 3/7th of the project's total cost (i.e., for a \$100,000 award, the total project must cost at least \$175,000 and the applicant must provide at least \$75,000). Applicant contributions can use local government dollars, private dollars (such as foundation dollars), or in-kind support. Applicants may not fulfill the match requirement using other state or federal grant funds. Applicants are encouraged to seek foundation funds to support the match requirement, in particular from foundations that support youth development programs. The DOH will fund no more than 4/7th of the project's total cost.

Grants awarded through this RFA may not be used to fund direct services such as child care, health care, mental health services, crisis intervention, case management, or other services that are available through other resources.

Contracts will last for five years beginning on October 1, 2018.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

In order to qualify for funding under this RFA, applicants must be one of the following types of organizations:

- State and local government entities, such as city and county health departments, school districts, and youth bureaus; or
- Not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

Applicants may propose to serve youth in one or two New York State counties and must specify a priority community within the county or counties for their proposed project. Priority communities are defined by the highest-risk ZIP codes within the selected county or counties based on the Adolescent Sexual Health Needs Index (ASHNI), which is provided in Attachment 5 of the RFA and measures factors related to adolescent pregnancy and the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate the following:

- A minimum of five years of experience serving youth, including those in foster care, members of racial, ethnic, and/or cultural minority groups, homeless/runaway youth, youth involved in the juvenile justice/adjudication systems, and/or individuals with disabilities;
- Board of Directors and staff, including senior management staff, who are representative of the racial, ethnic, and/or cultural populations they plan to serve and intend to reach through the proposed project; and
- Letters of commitment from all schools, service providers, institutions, and community- or faith-based organizations, juvenile detention centers, residential care facilities, or other venues where project services will take place.

TARGET POPULATION

The STYA Initiative is aimed at children between the ages of 9 and 12, with priority for the following subpopulations:

- Individuals in foster care;
- Individuals residing in under-resourced communities;
- Individuals residing in priority communities as defined by the ASHNI;
- Members of racial, ethnic, and/or cultural minority groups;
- Homeless/runaway individuals;
- Individuals involved in the juvenile justice/adjudication systems; and
- Individuals with disabilities.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Proposed projects should include all three of the following program components:

- Provide individual, small group, and/or team mentoring and counseling, and/or adult-supervised activities that create educational, recreational, or vocational opportunities for preteen youth.
- Provide adult-led group sessions designed to encourage in-depth discussion of topics of concern among preteen youth;
- Provide parenting education to the parents, guardians, and other adult caregivers of preteen youth.

Applicants must attest that program methods and materials are supported by research that follows accepted scientific methods and is published in peer-reviewed journals. Program services may be delivered to participants in schools, community and faith-based organizations, other community settings, and congregate care settings.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Program Summary (10 points)
- Organizational Experience and Capacity (20 points)
- Community Needs and Resources Assessment (20 points)
- Description of Project Narrative with Proposed Activities (30 points)
- Budget and Staffing Plan (20 points)

Applicants must receive a minimum score of 70 to be considered for funding. In the event of a tie, the applicant with a higher score on the Description of Project Narrative with Proposed Activities will receive funding through this RFA.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by December 20th. There will be an applicant conference call on November 14th at 10:30am. Interested applicants may register for the conference by sending an email to styarfa@health.ny.gov with the subject line “STYA Applicant Conference” by November 3rd.

Organizations are limited to two participating members per agency. Applicants are directed to call 1-844-633-8697, participant code: 319 155 987 #, to participate in the conference call. Participation in the conference call is encouraged but not mandatory.

Questions should be submitted to Karen Barrett at styarfa@health.ny.gov by November 17th. Answers to questions will be posted on the Grants Gateway on December 1st. Awardees are expected to be announced on July 1, 2018.