

## RFP: Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

### OVERVIEW

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for organizations interested in providing Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness, Serious Emotional Disturbance, or Co-Occurring Disorders Experiencing Homelessness. Approximately \$10.4 million in total annual funding will be available to eligible organizations interested in providing accessible, evidence-based treatment and recovery services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Funding will support the following activities:

- Integrated behavioral health treatment and other recovery-oriented services;
- Efforts to engage and connect clients to enrollment resources for health insurance, Medicaid, and mainstream benefits; and
- Coordination of housing and services that support sustainable permanent housing.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### FUNDING

Up to \$1 million will be awarded annually to state governments and territories and up to \$500,000 will be awarded annually to all other eligible not-for-profit organizations interested in providing treatment and support services. Up to \$25,000 of the award may be used for the purchase of Technical Assistance (TA). Funding may also be used for the following activities:

- Development and implementation of tobacco cessation programs, activities, and/or strategies;
- Limited screening activities to identify incarcerated individuals eligible for the program and the provision of post-release housing and behavioral health services plans to those individuals; and
- Education, screening, and counseling services for hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections.

Funding limitations are as follows:

- No more than 15 percent of the award may be used for data collection, performance measurement, and performance assessment;
- No more than 15 percent of the award may be used for developing the infrastructure necessary to provide services;
- No more than 5 percent of the award may be used for short-term residential programs that are 30 days or less in duration.

Contracts will last for up to five years beginning on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

In order to qualify for funding under this RFP, applicants must be domestic public or private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations who meet the following requirements:

- Mental health/substance use treatment provider organizations must have at least two years of experience providing relevant services; and

- Organizations must either:
  - Be qualified to receive third party reimbursements and have an existing reimbursement system in place; or
  - Have established links to other behavioral health or primary care organizations with existing third party reimbursement systems.

Recipients that received an award under the 2017 Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI) RFP or the 2016 or 2017 Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) RFPs are not eligible to apply for funding under this RFP.

## TARGET POPULATION

The target population for services provided through this RFP are adults over 18 years old with serious mental illness (SMI) and youth from birth to 18 years old with serious emotional disturbance (SED) who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Individuals with a co-occurring disorder (COD), which is defined as the presence of SMI and substance use disorder (SUD) or the presence of SED and SUD, who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are also eligible for program services.

## PROGRAM SERVICES

Awarded applicants must allocate at least 70 percent of their award to support the following direct services:

- Outreach and other engagement activities to identify eligible individuals and families interested in enrolling in the program;
- Assistance with identifying sustainable permanent housing;
- Evidence-based, integrated mental health and substance use interventions for COD treatment to be provided in outpatient, intensive outpatient, short-term residential, or recovery housing programs;
- Integrated primary/substance use disorder/mental health care approach in developing the service delivery plan with special attention to low-income and underserved populations;
- Case management or other strategies to address SMI, SED, and COD;
- Engagement and enrollment of the target population in health insurance, Medicaid, and other benefit programs;
- Trauma-informed services, including assessments and interventions for emotional, sexual, and/or physical abuse;
- Family-driven services and engagement for youth populations, as applicable;
- Collaboration across applicable agencies, providers, and programs to enhance service provision;
- Linkage to and support of engagement with recovery support services, such as vocational, educational, or crisis care services.

Programs are required to have a Project Director and a Project Evaluator. Both positions must receive prior approval by SAMHSA after review of staff credentials and job descriptions.

## APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Population of Focus and Statement of Need (15 points)

- Proposed Implementation Approach (30 points)
- Proposed Evidence-Based Practices (25 points)
- Staff and Organizational Experience (20 points)
- Data Collection and Performance Measurement (10 points)

Awards will be distributed based on the above criteria, the availability of funds, and the distribution of funding by geographic area, population need, and program size. If applications are received from organizations within the same state and with the same population of focus, funding priority will be given to organizations in the following order: state applicant, local government applicant, community applicant.

## Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by March 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a pre-application webinar on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-4pm. Interested parties can join the webinar directly [here](#) at the indicated date and time.

Questions should be submitted to Maia Banks-Scheetz at [Maia.Banks-scheetz@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Maia.Banks-scheetz@samhsa.hhs.gov) for program issues and Gwendolyn Simpson at [FOACMHS@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:FOACMHS@samhsa.hhs.gov) for grants management and budget issues.