

## **RFA: Sexual Risk Avoidance Education**

### **OVERVIEW**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for community-based projects that implement the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) initiative. This initiative will fund between 12 and 16 awards to programs for early adolescent youth ages 10-13, including those in foster care, with the goal of delaying or preventing adolescent sexual activity, reducing adolescent pregnancy rates, and easing the transition to young adulthood. About \$3 million in total funding will be awarded annually through this RFA to eligible applicants to support program operations in high-need New York State communities.

SRAE program activities for youth will include (1) evidence-based education on sexual risk avoidance and (2) adult-supervised educational, recreational, and/or vocational activities. Programs will also provide parenting education classes for parents, guardians, and caregivers of youth participants to enhance their parenting skills. Sites for such programs may include schools and other community settings.

The full RFA is attached. Applications are due on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **FUNDING**

Applicants may request award amounts between \$175,000 and \$275,000 annually. Awarded applicants will not be required to provide matching funds but may incorporate matching funds and/or in-kind funds to their project in their sustainability plan. Funding may not be used for direct services such as child care, health care, or other clinical services for participants that are available through other resources.

Applicants may propose to serve youth in up to two New York State counties that are identified as high-need based on the Adolescent Sexual Health Needs Index (ASHNI). A list of the highest need ZIP codes for each county based on the ASHNI is available in Attachment 5 of the RFA.

Contracts will last for five years beginning on July 1, 2019.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies, including Article 28 healthcare facilities and community-based health and human service agencies. Preference will be given to applicants with the following:

- A minimum of five years' experience serving youth in foster care systems, adjudication systems, youth who are victims of trafficking, and/or runaway and homeless youth or other marginalized youth between the ages of 10-13; 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.

## APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Program Summary (20 points)
- Organizational Experience and Capacity (15 points)
- Community Resources Assessment (15 points)
- Description of Project Narrative with Proposed Activities (30 points)
- Budget and Staffing Plan (20 points)

Applicants must receive a minimum average score of 70 to be considered for this RFA. In the case of a tie, the proposal with the highest score on the Project Narrative section will be ranked higher.

## Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by November 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be an optional applicant conference call on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Interested parties should register by emailing [sraerfa@health.ny.gov](mailto:sraerfa@health.ny.gov) with the subject line “SRAE Applicant Conference” by October 12<sup>th</sup>. Only two parties from each prospective applicant organization are permitted to join. To join the conference, applicants are directed to call 1-844-633-8697 and enter participant code: 955 681 22#.

Questions regarding this RFA should be submitted by October 22<sup>nd</sup> to the email address above with a reference to the applicable RFA section and paragraph. Questions and answers will be posted on Grants Gateway on or about November 14<sup>th</sup>.