

RFP: Capital Funds for OMH Article 31 Licensed RTFs and Mental Health Clinics for Children

OVERVIEW

On December 18th, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) re-released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for up to \$20 million in capital funding for the preservation, restructuring, and/or expansion of OMH Article 31 Licensed Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) and/or Article 31 mental health clinics licensed to serve children. Applicants should propose projects that will preserve the safe functionality of a facility, make physical layout changes to or repurpose part of a facility, or create additional program space to expand access to care.

This RFP was initially released in May, but OMH has decided to re-open the RFP and extend the deadline due to a required technical fix to address confusion related to the eligibility criteria for applicants. OMH provided additional details on eligibility and clarified that county-run OMH Article 31 freestanding clinics (who received Vital Access Provider funding) are eligible to apply for funding through this RFP. OMH has also lowered the required minimum average score to receive funding from 70 to 65. Organizations that have already submitted applications will have the opportunity to re-open their applications, though they are not required to do so.

The full RFP is available [here](#) and the RFP extension announcement is available [here](#). Applications are now due February 8, 2019.

FUNDING

Applicants may request between \$200,000 and \$1.5 million per application. Priority will be given to RTFs and Vital Access Provider (VAP) designated clinics, with two pools of \$4 million each dedicated to each of these provider categories. If funds remain unallocated after all applications from providers within these pools are awarded, the balance will be awarded to other applications.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- The cost of planning and consultants;
- Construction, renovation, or acquisition of property; or
- Durable goods or equipment needed to complete a capital project. Durable goods may not comprise more than 50 percent of the funding request.

Costs incurred before the contract date may not be reimbursed. Contract terms will be determined as part of the contract development process.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations who operate either OMH Article 31 RTFs or freestanding clinic treatment programs with an OMH Operating certificate that are licensed to serve children. Programs must be able to respond “children” and/or “adolescents” next to “Population Served” on the RFP Application. Applicants may **not** have operating profits of more than 10 percent consistently during the last three fiscal years, as reported on their Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR). Article 28 clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are not eligible to apply for this funding.

Providers who operate multiple clinics or RTFs may submit up to two applications, but each application must be for a distinct project and pertain to a single facility.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Funds may be used for capital projects that will complete necessary physical improvements to facilities in order to improve accessibility, care quality, or capacity to meet the population's needs. Awardees must obtain approval from OMH for the project through the standard process of submitting an EZ-Prior Application Review (PAR) application. Some examples of eligible projects include:

- Implementation of an RTF Pilot Proposal;
- Development of a specialized treatment unit; or
- Expansion of service capacity.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Executive Summary (10 points)
- Demonstration of Need (30 points)
- Capital Project Development (25 points)
- Project Impact (5 points)
- Program Viability and Sustainability Assessment (10 points)
- Financial Assessment (20 points).

Awards will be allocated based on the above criteria. Applications must score at least 65 points to be eligible for an award. In the case of a tie, the proposal with a higher score on the Demonstration of Need section will be ranked higher.

TIMELINE

Proposals must be submitted by February 8, 2019. Questions may be submitted to Carol Swiderski at Carol.Swiderski@omh.ny.gov by January 2nd. Questions and answers will be posted on the OMH website on January 9th. Awards are expected to be announced on February 22nd.