

RFP: OCFS Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention Funding

OVERVIEW

On January 31st, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) offering about \$3 million in funding for community-based programs to prevent child abuse and domestic violence. Funds will be awarded from two sources, the State William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund and the federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program, for initiatives to prevent abuse or maltreatment and improving outcomes for families at risk of experiencing child abuse, maltreatment, or domestic violence. Priority will be given to applicants proposing to serve high-need communities through evidence-based services.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due March 13th.

FUNDING

Up to \$150,000 per agency will be awarded to start new programs or enhance existing programs that strengthen families and/or avoid foster care or other out-of-home placements. At least one award will be made in each of the six OCFS-designated regions of the State.

About \$830,000 is available from the State Trust Fund and will be distributed according to the Fund's enacting legislation: 40 percent for child abuse prevention, 40 percent for domestic violence services, and 20 percent for statewide initiatives (which is not included in this RFP). Applicants proposing continuation of an elder abuse prevention program without expansions or enhancement will only be eligible for 50% of their initial Trust Fund award. About \$2,150,000 is available through CBCAP for child abuse and maltreatment prevention efforts.

All grantees will be subject to a spend-down formula which allows for applicants to receive 100% of the initial grant in years 1-2 of operations, up to 75% of the initial grant in year 3, and up to 50% of the initial grant in year 4. Continuation funding may be offered in Year 5, contingent on an assessment of performance. Programs initially funded through this RFP are intended to be supported and sustained by the community as funding decreases.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible for funding through this RFP, organizations must be either:

- Community-based or faith-based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, or
- Public agencies, including local offices, boards, departments, or other such organizations.

Applicants must collaborate with their local departments of social services (LDSS) or, in New York City, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), to jointly identify service gaps and community needs. Applicants must also be prequalified, if not exempt, in the New York State Grants Gateway.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Applicants may propose a variety of program models. OCFS will seek to support models that are outcome-focused and performance-driven, including innovative evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices. Desired outcomes include the following:

- Engaging families in evidence-based programming to provide needed supports for caregivers;
- Retaining families in needed services and parenting education programs;
- Assessing families' strengths, challenges, and needs in order to provide appropriate services;
- Strengthen families by building protective factors, including parental resilience, nurturing/attachment, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social supports;
- Developing parental leadership within the program and the larger community;
- Increasing knowledge of prevention of intimate partner violence; and
- Improving the safety and well-being of intergenerational family members at risk of abuse.

Programs are also encouraged to consider the following elements in proposal design:

- Priority on targeting services to disconnected or high-need youth, including the capacity to engage in cross-agency collaborations and partnerships with other community organizations;
- Racial equity and cultural competence; and
- Disproportionate minority representation in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Community Knowledge (10 points);
- Target Population(s) (10 points);
- Objectives, Tasks, and Performance Measures (10 points);
- Proposed Project Description (30 points);
- Project Staff (10 points);
- Organization (10 points); and
- Proposed Budget (30 points).

Applications must have a minimum score of 75 points to be considered for funding. Awards will be made beginning with the highest score in each of the six statewide OCFS-designated regions, within the following program categories using the appropriate funding source:

- Child abuse prevention;
- Intimate partner violence prevention; and
- Prevention of intergenerational violence.

TIMELINE

Applications are due by March 13th. Questions may be submitted to RFP@ocfs.ny.gov by 12:59PM February 14th. Awards are expected to be announced around May 1st, with contracts scheduled to begin August 1st.