

RFP: Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects

OVERVIEW

On January 24th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE): Special Projects grants. Through this initiative, a total of \$8.3 million in annual funding will be awarded to eligible organizations to develop and implement targeted strategies for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment provision for a specific need identified by the community.

Special Projects grants provide flexible funding to rapidly develop substance abuse services needed in specific areas. Organizations can choose to address a specific population, such as LGBT individuals or individuals living in rural areas, or a specific area of focus, such as expansion of telehealth or expansion of peer recovery support services. Awardees will be expected to create new service delivery capacity for evidence-based SUD treatment and/or recovery support services within four months of the award.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on March 25th.

FUNDING

Up to \$375,000 will be awarded annually through this RFP to 22 organizations. Up to \$25,000 of the annual award may be used to purchase Technical Assistance (TA). Additional funding limitations are as follows:

- No more than 15 percent of the award may be used for developing the infrastructure necessary for expansion of services; and
- No more than 20 percent of the award may be used for data collection, performance measurement, and performance assessment, including incentives for participating in the required data collection follow-up.

Awarded organizations are expected to maximally use third-party and other revenue realized from the provision of services. Grant funds through this RFP should be used only for services:

- To individuals who are not covered by public or commercial health insurance;
- To individuals for whom coverage has been formally determined to be otherwise unavailable; or
- That are not sufficiently covered by an individual's health insurance plan.

Contracts are expected to last for up to three years beginning on July 31st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

In order to qualify for funding under this RFP, applicants must be domestic public or private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entities, including community-based organizations. Eligible applicants must also meet the following three requirements:

- A provider organization for direct client substance abuse treatment services appropriate to the grant must be involved in the proposed project. The provider may be the applicant or another organization committed to the project. More than one provider organization may be involved.

- Each mental health/substance abuse treatment provider organization must have at least two years of experience providing relevant services.
- Each mental health/substance abuse treatment provider organization must comply with all applicable local and state licensing, accreditation, and certification requirements.

Organizations must hire a Project Director who will require prior approval by SAMHSA.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Awarded organizations must use program funding through this RFP for the following required activities:

- Screen and assess clients for the presence of SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders and use the information obtained from the screening and assessment to develop appropriate treatment approaches;
- Provide evidence-based and population appropriate treatment approaches to meet the unique needs of diverse populations at risk. Treatment services include medication delivery and management, outpatient, day treatment (including outreach-based services), intensive outpatient, recovery housing, or residential programs;
- Provide recovery support services (e.g., vocational, educational, and transportation services). Grant funds may be used to purchase such services from another provider;
- Develop and implement strategies to recruit and engage clients in care to ensure that clients with the greatest need are being served by the program; and
- Collaborate with community partners to provide comprehensive services.

In addition, programs may choose to provide the following allowable activities:

- Develop and implement tobacco cessation programs, activities, and/or strategies; and
- Utilize innovative strategies such as the implementation of ECHO-based models of care to increase and expand the reach of service provision and address barriers to treatment receipt.

If an evidence-based practice (EBP) exists for the types of problems or disorders being addressed in the program, the expectation is that the EBP(s) will be utilized. Also, SAMHSA encourages applicants to consider prioritizing the population of returning veterans and their families for services as appropriate.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Population of Focus and Statement of Need (10 points)
- Proposed Implementation Approach (30 points)
- Proposed Evidence-Based Service/Practice (25 points)
- Staff and Organizational Experience (15 points)
- Data Collection and Performance Measurement (20 points)

Awards will be distributed based on the above criteria, the availability of funds, and an equitable distribution of funding by geographic area, population need, and program size.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by March 25th. Questions may be submitted to TCEFOA@samhsa.hhs.gov for program issues and to Eileen Bermudez at FOACSAT@samhsa.hhs.gov for grants management and budget issues.