

RFP: Project LAUNCH Children's Health Grant Program

OVERVIEW

On February 19th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the federal fiscal year (FY) 2019 Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health Grant Program (Project LAUNCH). Through this initiative, over \$12 million in total funding will be awarded to eligible organizations who promote the wellness of young children (from birth to eight years of age) by addressing the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and behavioral aspects of their development. Programs will implement interventions that include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral and developmental assessments and screenings;
- Training for parents and caregivers;
- Integration of behavioral health into primary care settings; and
- Provision of mental health consultations in early care and educational settings.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on April 19th.

FUNDING

Up to \$800,000 will be awarded annually through this RFP to 15 organizations. No more than 15 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 must implement policies to ensure other sources of funding are used whenever possible, including other systems and third party payers. Grant funds should be used only for services to individuals who are not covered by public or commercial health insurance, individuals for whom coverage has been formally determined to be otherwise unavailable, or for services that are not sufficiently covered by an individual's health insurance plan.

Contracts are expected to last for up to five years beginning on August 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. A provider organization for local mental health 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, and more than one provider organization may be involved. Each mental health service provider organization must have at least two years of experience providing relevant services.

Organizations must hire a Project Director and a Project Evaluator. Both positions will require prior approval from SAMHSA.

PROGRAM SERVICES

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

- Conduct screening and assessment to ensure the early identification of behavioral and developmental concerns using validated screening instruments, including screening for other behavioral health issues, such as perinatal/maternal depression and substance misuse among parents (including opioid use), as appropriate;
- Provide family and parent training to help parents, guardians, and family caregivers provide healthy, safe, and secure environments in which young children can learn and grow;
- Integrate behavioral health into primary care settings to equip providers with the knowledge, skills, and resources to address issues related to young children's and caregivers' behavioral health within primary care settings, including on-site or virtual/telephonic consultation, screening, assessment, brief intervention, and/or referral to specialty care;
- Provide mental health consultation in early care and education to ensure that child care and educational settings provide optimal learning environments for young children, and social, emotional, and behavioral concerns are identified and addressed through screening, assessment, intervention, and/or referral;
- Establish a Young Child Wellness Council (YCWC) that will provide support to the project. Representation on the YCWC must include, but is not limited to, the following sectors: health, behavioral health, education, childcare, Head Start, child welfare, and early intervention. At least 10 percent of representatives should be from families with children from birth to 8 years of age;
- Improve coordination and collaboration across child- and family-serving systems and programs; and
- Raise public awareness and education related to early childhood development and mental health.

In addition, successful applicants will be expected to develop a behavioral health disparities impact statement no later than 60 days after the issuance of the award.

SAMHSA encourages applicants to address the behavioral health needs of returning veterans in designing and developing their programs and to consider prioritizing this population and their families for services as appropriate. 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.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Population of Focus and Statement of Need (20 points)
- Proposed Implementation Approach (30 points)
- Proposed Evidence-Based Practices (25 points)
- Staff and Organizational Experience (15 points)
- Data Collection and Performance Measurement (10 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 April 19th. Questions should be submitted to Jennifer Oppenheim at Jennifer.oppenheim@samhsa.hhs.gov for program issues and to Eileen Bermudez at FOACSAT@samhsa.hhs.gov for grants management and budget issues.