

## NOFO: 2020 Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program

### OVERVIEW

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2020 Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program. This program supports training programs to increase the number of peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals who provide services to children whose parents are impacted by opioid use disorders (OUD) and other substance use disorders (SUD) and their family members who are in guardianship roles. This program will also provide developmental opportunities and educational support to increase the number of paraprofessional trainees who complete pre-service training (i.e., Level I training, which includes didactic and experiential field training) and who enter in-service training (Level II training, which includes training at a registered Department of Labor apprenticeship site).

Approximately \$11.5 million in total annual funding will be awarded to eligible organizations who will recruit peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessional trainees into their program and provide them with the necessary training and financial support.

The full NOFO is attached. Applications are due on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### FUNDING

Up to \$600,000 will be awarded annually through this program to approximately 19 organizations for direct and indirect costs. Contracts are expected to last for up to four years beginning on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Indirect costs under these training awards will be budgeted and reimbursed at 8% of modified total direct costs rather than on the basis of a negotiated rate agreement and are not subject to upward or downward adjustment. Direct cost amounts for equipment, tuition and fees, and subawards and subcontractors in excess of \$25,000 will not be included in the direct cost base for this calculation.

Over the four-year program, 50% of the budget must be dedicated to participant support (i.e., tuition/fees, supplies, stipends) and the other 50% can be directed to administration and management of the project, including project staff time, travel, subawards, and other indirect costs. However, no budget year may exceed 60% in administrative and management costs.

Applicants may request the following maximum amounts per student/trainee:

Training Level	Tuition/Fees/Supplies	Stipend	Time Limit
<b>Level I (Pre-Service)</b> Full Time	\$3,000	\$5,000	No more than 12 consecutive months
<b>Level I (Pre-Service)</b> Part Time	\$3,000	\$5,000	No more than 24 consecutive months
<b>Level II (In-Service)</b> Full Time		\$7,500	Minimum 12 months and annually thereafter up to 4 years
<b>Level II (In-Service)</b> Part Time		\$3,750	Minimum 12 months and annually thereafter up to 4 years

Awarded organizations should aim for at least 50% of individuals who complete Level I training to enter a registered apprenticeship program (Level II training).

Funding awarded through this program may not be used for:

- Construction;
- Foreign travel;
- Liability insurance;
- Unemployment insurance;
- Life insurance;
- Taxes;
- Fees;
- Retirement plans;
- Other fringe benefits; or
- Accreditation costs (i.e., renewals, annual fees).

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Eligible applicants are State-licensed mental health not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, including academic institutions, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations. Organizations must be able to support programs for pre-service or in-service training for paraprofessional child, adolescent, and transitional aged youth mental health workers.

Training programs may include behavioral-health related paraprofessional occupations, such as:

- Mental health worker;
- Peer support specialist;
- Peer support counselor;
- Community health worker;
- Outreach worker;
- Behavioral health aide;
- Social services aide;
- Substance abuse/addictions worker;
- Youth worker;
- Promotor/a; and
- Recovery coach, manager, mentor, support specialist, or coach/guide.

Trainees must be enrolled full- or part-time in the school or program receiving the grant award in order to receive tuition and stipend support.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The program will be required to facilitate the following:

- Enhance the existing paraprofessional certificate training program(s) through curriculum development or inclusion of hands-on learning through experiential field placements to understand the specific concerns of people with OUD and other SUD;
- Establish or leverage partnerships with community-based, non-traditional organizations and tribal colleges to serve high need and high demand areas and populations;

- Provide “on-the-job training”, through a registered apprenticeship program to assist paraprofessional trainees in gaining career ladder opportunities, earning stackable credits, and enhancing their skills that lead to obtaining meaningful employment in high need and high demand areas;
- Create additional training positions beyond current program capacity by a minimum of 10% in year one and maintain that level each year over the four-year project period to increase the number of paraprofessionals trained with a focus on working with families impacted by OUD and other SUD;
- Provide support up to \$8,000 (maximum \$3,000 tuition/fees and supplies and \$5,000 stipend) to Level I pre-service behavioral health-related paraprofessional trainees to help defray the cost of living while in the training program, not to exceed twelve months. In addition, provide stipend support \$7,500 to Level II in-service trainees during the apprenticeship period. Each full-time trainee may receive a stipend of \$7,500 per year, for up to four years, for each level of training attained; and
- Identify experienced preceptors/mentors to provide assistance to trainees at experiential placement and registered apprenticeship sites.

## APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Purpose and Need (25 points)
- Response to Program Purpose (35 points)
- Impact (20 points)
- Organizational Information, Resources, and Capabilities (10 points)
- Support Requested (10 points)

Applicants who adequately emphasize the role of the family and the lived experience of the consumer and family-paraprofessional partnership will have an additional 5 points added to their final score. Awards will be distributed based on the above criteria, funding priorities, and funding preference as determined by a peer review group. Additional details on funding preference qualifications are available in the NOFO.

## Timeline

Applications must be submitted by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Questions should be submitted to Andrea L. Knox at [OIFSP@hrsa.gov](mailto:OIFSP@hrsa.gov) for program issues and/or technical assistance and to William Weisenberg at [wweisenberg@hrsa.gov](mailto:wweisenberg@hrsa.gov) for additional information and/or technical assistance regarding business, administrative, or fiscal issues.