

FOA: Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment

OVERVIEW

On February 17th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for primary care providers and health systems interested in providing Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) services to children, adolescents, and/or adults in primary care and community health settings.

Approximately \$10.7 million in total funding will be awarded to up to ten organizations through this opportunity, at least \$2 million of which will be awarded to applicants providing services in pediatric health settings. Funding will support clinically appropriate direct services for individuals at risk of or diagnosed with substance use disorder, with a focus on screening for underage drinking, opioid use, and other substance use.

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

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include public and private not-for-profit health care or behavioral health systems, such as:

- Health Maintenance Organizations;
- Preferred Provider Organizations;
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs);
- Hospital systems;
- Pediatric health care providers (defined as “a provider of primary health care to individuals under the age of 21 years”);
- Children’s hospitals; and
- Community health or behavioral health centers.

Preference will be given to systems with integrated specialty treatment care or the ability to establish integrated care mechanisms. In addition, organizations should have demonstrated infrastructure and experience providing the required services quickly and effectively. Programs are required to have a Project Director and a Project Evaluator, both of which must receive prior approval by SAMHSA after review of staff credentials and job descriptions.

FUNDING

Up to \$995,000 will be awarded annually through this program to up to 10 organizations interested in providing SBIRT services. Up to \$25,000 of the award may be used for the purchase of Technical Assistance. Funding may also be used to:

- Develop and implement tobacco cessation programs, activities, and/or strategies;
- Include SBIRT services in electronic health records or automated devices that enhance treatment; and
- Train health care providers, disseminate best practices (including culturally and linguistically appropriate best practices), and develop and distribute materials.

Awarded applicants must devote at least 70 percent of the grant award to expand/enhance their service system to carry out SBIRT services, of which 30 percent may be used to pay for the procurement of specialty treatment services. Funding limitations are as follows:

- No more than 15 percent of the award may be used for developing the infrastructure necessary to provide services;
- No more than 15 percent of the award may be used for data collection, performance measurements, and performance assessment; and
- No more than 15 percent of the award may be used for administrative purposes.

Awarded applicants are expected to use third party reimbursements and other revenue realized from the provision of services to the extent possible. Grant funds should only be used for services to individuals who are not covered by public or commercial health insurance programs, individuals for whom coverage has been formally determined to be unaffordable, or for services that are not sufficiently covered by an individual's health insurance plan.

Contracts are expected to last for five years beginning on September 30th.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Awarded applicants must allocate at least 70 percent of their award to expand or enhance their treatment service system to successfully implement the following required activities:

- Pre-screening;
- Screening;
- Brief Intervention;
- Brief Treatment; and
- Referral to Treatment.

Awarded applicants will be expected to develop a behavioral health disparities impact statement no later than 60 days after receiving the award.

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 April 19th. Program and eligibility questions should be submitted to Andrea Harris at andrea.harris@samhsa.hhs.gov. Fiscal and budget questions should be submitted to Corey Sullivan at FOACSAT@samhsa.hhs.gov. Grant review process and application status questions should be submitted to Emily Chan at emily.chan@samhsa.hhs.gov.