

RFA: Systems-Level Risk Detection and Interventions to Reduce Suicide, Ideation, and Behaviors in Youth from Underserved Populations

OVERVIEW

On April 16th, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for research projects concerning the detection and prevention of suicide and suicide ideation/behavior (SIB) and/or non-suicidal self-harm (NSSI) among youth from underserved populations. Research projects should test a system-level strategy that is designed for delivery in typical service settings, across an array of mental health specialty and non-specialty settings, that will:

- Optimize a service system intervention that coordinates systematic risk identification, evaluation, and linkage to quality treatment and services for underserved youth;
- Test the feasibility and effectiveness of the intervention in detecting and responding to vulnerable youth within and across various relevant community settings; and
- Examine factors that potentially impact the intervention's implementation and potential for future uptake in diverse settings across the U.S.

NIMH will award \$2.5 million in total funding to up to four applicants through this RFA.

The full RFA is available [here](#). Applications are due on June 29th.

FUNDING

Awards are not specifically limited (except by the maximum RFA funding) but should reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The maximum project period is five years.

Contracts are expected to begin in April 2022.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include:

- Not-for-profit organizations with and without 501(c)(3) status;
- Small businesses;
- For-profit organizations (other than small businesses); and
- Faith- or community-based organizations.

Applicants may submit more than one application; however, each submitted application must be scientifically distinct.

NIMH encourages collaboration with multiple stakeholders (e.g., case managers, social workers, parole or probation officers, school personnel, peer-counselors, vulnerable youth and their family members, community program managers, policy leaders, etc.), which can contribute to shaping interventions that can be feasibly delivered and have likelihood of rapid scale-up. Additionally, the ability to link multiple data systems may enable assessment of the efficiency and full impact of interventions.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

This RFA is intended to support research on a deployment-focused model of service design, with attention to end-user perspectives. Some listed examples of relevant systems-level interventions are:

- Interventions that address practical, systemic, and cultural barriers to detection, referral, and treatment of SIB and NSSI;
- Technology-based approaches targeting underserved youth to improve screening and detection, engagement in interventions, or access to care;
- Diffusion strategies to improve availability to large numbers of underserved youth;
- Interventions and best practices for youth-serving settings (e.g., schools, foster care) to train personnel in detecting risk factors of SIB and NSSI; and
- Interventions to increase the uptake and fidelity of evidence-based interventions (e.g., training).

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Significance
- Investigator(s)
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will also evaluate the study timeline and protections for human subjects, among other criteria.

Timeline

Proposals are due on June 29th. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit a Letter of Intent to nimhpeerreview@mail.nih.gov by May 30th.

General questions may be submitted to grantsinfo@nih.gov. Scientific/research, peer review, and financial/grants management contacts are listed in the RFA.