

RFP: Implementation of the Sources of Strength Program

OVERVIEW

On August 12th, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the “Sources of Strength” program, which is a universal school-based suicide prevention program designed to build protective influences across a defined adolescent population. The evidence-based program trains students as peer leaders and connects them with mentoring adult advisors at school and in the community.

Through this RFP, OMH will provide \$710,800 to one organization over the five-year program. The awarded organization will be responsible for identifying participating schools in consultation with OMH, training peer leaders and adult advisors in the Sources of Strength program, and monitoring school performance.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Required Letters of Intent are due on October 13th and applications are due on October 27th.

FUNDING

OMH will provide the awarded applicant with \$142,160 in annual operating funding. Administrative costs may not exceed 15 percent of the budget.

Contracts will last for five years beginning on January 1, 2022.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies that have experience implementing evidence-based prevention programming in youth-serving organizational settings, such as schools.

The awarded applicant will be required to contract with the national Sources of Strength organization for training, licensing, materials, and support.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for this program is youth in grades 8-12 in schools (or other youth-serving settings) in New York State. The awarded applicant will be expected to support program implementation in new schools while also maintaining Sources of Strength in schools that have implemented the program in the past. The number of peer leaders trained in each school will vary by school size.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Experience with Target Population (25 points)
- Description of Program (30 points)
- Implementation (30 points)
- Program Evaluation (20 points)
- Financial Assessment (26 points)

Proposals must receive a minimum score of 65 to be considered for funding. In the case of a tie, the proposal with the highest score on the “Description of Program” section will be considered for funding.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by October 27th. Applicants **must** submit a non-binding Letter of Intent to Carol Swiderski at carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov by October 13th with the subject line “Sources of Strength LOI.” Awards are expected to be announced on November 19th.

OMH will host a non-mandatory virtual conference to review the RFP components and answer questions on August 30th at 1pm. Interested applicants may join the conference [here](#). Questions may be submitted to the email address above by September 17th. Questions and answers will be posted on the OMH website on October 6th.