

RFA: Expansion of Intensive Community-Based Services for Children/Youth

OVERVIEW

On August 31st, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the expansion of timely in-person and telehealth access to intensive community-based services for children and youth. Through this RFA, OMH will provide one-time funding for the provision of comprehensive community mental health services for children and youth returning to school following the Covid-19 pandemic. Services should aim to divert children/youth from higher levels of care and/or provide safe stepdown from higher levels of care.

OMH will provide a total of up to \$1.9 million in funding through this RFA to eligible providers, with a maximum of \$950,000 awarded to all providers in New York City and Long Island and \$950,000 to all providers elsewhere. This funding was allocated to New York through the additional Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funding contained in the year-end 2020 omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act. This funding opportunity is intended to:

- Increase service capacity for eligible and appropriate referrals;
- Decrease program length of stay and service waitlists;
- Increase workforce capacity to support service access and provision; and
- Increase community awareness and education regarding services and availability/access.

The full RFA is attached. Applications are due on November 1st and will be reviewed and awarded in the order they are received.

FUNDING

OMH will provide up to \$30,000 in expansion funding and up to \$50,000 in start-up funding to existing OMH-licensed providers. Providers may use funding to:

- Expand program operations to serve a greater number of children/families and/or an expanded catchment area;
- Create formal mechanisms for connections/partnerships to emergency departments, inpatient facilities, crisis services, etc. for seamless referral processes and timely access to care; and
- Support efforts in marketing for hiring, onboarding, and retaining qualified staff for growth and the expansion of access to services.

Applicants may only submit **one** application for either expansion or start-up funding. Funding must be expended by December 31, 2022.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for expansion funds (\$30,000 one-time funding) are existing OMH-licensed providers in good standing, including:

- Clinics serving children/adolescents seeking to expand or create a “fast track” for access to in-person and telehealth clinic services as a step-up or step-down service. Specifically, the “fast track” would be available for children:
 - Presenting to emergency departments, CPEP, or mobile crisis; or
 - Discharging from inpatient psychiatric facilities, Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) or crisis residences/respite settings.
- Child/adolescent Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs);
- Child/adolescent Partial Hospitalization Programs; and
- State Aid-funded Home-Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) programs.

For clinics, the fast-track approach must include, at a minimum:

- For enrolled/admitted clients or clients returning to treatment:
 - Access to a clinical appointment within two business days.
- For new clients:
 - Access to intake/admission within 24 hours;
 - Access to first appointment with 72 hours of intake; and
 - Access to a psychiatrist within five business days of intake.

Eligible applicants for start-up funds (\$50,000 one-time funding) are existing OMH-licensed providers in good standing that are:

- Clinics seeking to start child/adolescent IOPs at their clinic location, school-based satellite location, or another satellite location, with demonstrated sustainability mechanisms; or
- Providers seeking to start child/adolescent Partial Hospitalization Programs, with demonstrated sustainability mechanisms.

Funding awards may be further subject to the submission and approval of a 501 Waiver or Prior Application Review (PAR) application, as applicable. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) in the federal demonstration are excluded from funding.

APPLICATION

Proposals must include and will be reviewed based on the below criteria:

- Background, including a brief narrative to demonstrate need (e.g., waitlist, historical need around school re-entry, etc.);
- Baseline data (i.e., number of children/families served by the program, catchment area, number of current FTEs); and
- Summary of proposed methods to meet intended goals of increased service volume through expansion or start-up funds.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by November 1st and will be reviewed and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Applicants are required to consult with the program’s local governmental unit to discuss their intent to start or expand services within the county.

Questions may be submitted to Carol Swiderski at carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov.