

Concept Paper: Recreation and Socialization Services for Individuals with I/DD

OVERVIEW

On September 8th, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) released a concept paper outlining a proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of recreation and socialization services for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island. Services will be provided to individuals with I/DD and their families/caregivers who are unable to access similar services funded by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and other state agencies. DOHMH intends to award a total of approximately \$8 million over nine years to five qualified organizations through this proposed RFP.

The concept paper is available [here](#). Comments will be accepted through October 18th.

FUNDING

DOHMH will provide \$1,591,812 per award over the nine-year program period. DOHMH anticipates funding two contracts in the Bronx, two contracts in Queens, and one contract in Staten Island.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants should have at least three years of qualified experience providing services to individuals with I/DD in New York City. Proposed programs may be new, stand-alone programs or an enhancement of an existing program. Applicants may submit proposals to serve more than one borough; however, DOHMH may limit awards to one per applicant.

Applicants will be expected to provide a detailed plan that describes the organization's capacity and approach to racial equity and social justice through programming and operations.

TARGET POPULATION

Services will be provided to individuals with an I/DD diagnosis who are either ineligible to receive, or are waiting to be deemed eligible to receive, similar services administered by OPWDD or other publicly funded programs. Organizations may serve children, youth, young adults, and/or adults but must serve no fewer than 75 participants annually. Services may be provided to individuals residing outside of the proposed borough, provided that they reside within New York City, but at least 50 percent of services should be provided in-person to individuals residing in the proposed borough.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Programs will be required to provide direct recreational and/or socialization services for the target population, including:

- Trips to parks, sporting events or other recreational facilities;
- Overnight trips;
- Camp and after school programming;
- Music therapy or exposure, other performing arts exposure and activities;

- Arts and crafts;
- Cooking activities;
- Board games and puzzles;
- Sports or sports leagues, gymnastics, aerobics, gym activities, bowling, or fitness or movement activities;
- Supervised play and free time;
- Community service or volunteer activities;
- Supervised trips to stores, movies, restaurants or other community venues;
- Social skills groups;
- Leisure activities; and
- Other recreational and/or socialization activities that further socialization experiences and social skills, foster community integration, enhance interpersonal communication and peer relations, and/or provide opportunities to reinforce and practice skills learned in the classroom.

Programs may also offer services that provide educational enrichment or academic support to school programs, such as homework assistance and tutoring. Services may occur in schools or other locations in the community and should complement regular school programming. Proposed programs may comprise a range of different services, such as after-school recreation services for children and weekend socialization activities for adults.

In addition to the direct services above, programs will be required to provide family/caregiver support services that may comprise up to 20 percent of total awarded funding for the program. Such services may include, but are not limited to:

- Recreational programming structured to provide respite for families/caregivers;
- I/DD awareness education, coping skills training, and/or behavioral modification training; and
- Navigational support to help individuals and families access services in the community and under the auspices of OPWDD and other agencies.

Programs may use a hybrid in-person and remote service delivery model; however, 50 percent of services must be delivered in-person and 25 percent of services should be delivered remotely. Organizations should demonstrate capacity to transition to fully remote programming if necessary, such as during a public health crisis.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Relevant experience;
- Proposed approach to the scope of services;
- Program monitoring;
- Data management and reporting;
- Racial equity, social justice, and addressing health disparities;
- Organizational capacity, including proposed staffing plan; and
- Budget management.

Timeline

Comments on the concept paper may be submitted to RFP@health.nyc.gov with “I/DD Recreational and Socialization Services Concept Paper” in the subject line through October 18th.

DOHMH anticipates issuing the RFP in September 2021, with proposals accepted through November 2021. Award decisions are expected to be made in spring 2022.