

## **NOFO: Enhancing Systems of Care for Children with Medical Complexity**

### **OVERVIEW**

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Enhancing Systems of Care for Children with Medical Complexity program. Through this opportunity, HRSA will fund:

- Up to five demonstration projects to implement and evaluate evidence-informed, patient/family-centered models of care delivery; and
- One coordinating center to support the demonstration projects in meeting their program objectives, developing and disseminating resources, and providing leadership in the field.

Each demonstration project must implement and evaluate a project to serve at least 75 medically complex children. HRSA will award \$2 million in annual funding across the five demonstration projects and \$700,000 in annual funding for the coordinating center during the five-year project period.

The full NOFO is attached. Applications are due on March 7, 2022.

### **FUNDING**

Each demonstration project will receive up to \$400,000 in annual funding. The coordinating center will receive up to \$700,000 in annual funding. Funding may not be used for:

- Providing payments for clinical services;
- Providing service delivery equipment (i.e., telemedicine);
- Shared staffing across multiple grants/programs;
- Shared equipment across multiple grants/programs;
- Cash stipends/incentives for clients to enroll in project services. However, funding may be used to facilitate participation in project activities (e.g., childcare, transportation) and for services rendered to the project (e.g., adolescent peer mentors).

Applicants will be required to propose a plan for project sustainability after the funding period ends.

Contracts will last for five years starting August 1, 2022.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Eligible applicants are any domestic public or private entity, including community-based organizations. Applicants may apply for both the demonstration project and coordinating center; however, a separate application for each opportunity is required.

### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The demonstration projects will be expected to propose novel or innovative models of care that:

- Expand equitable access to quality patient/family-centered services, with an emphasis on children with medical complexity from unserved or underserved populations or communities;

- Optimize use of innovative technologies, such as telehealth, to facilitate comprehensive, coordinated, and continuous service across the care continuum; and
- Apply an equity-informed approach to health care delivery for children with medical complexity and equip their families with the knowledge of and/or access to medical, social, financial, or community resources they need for their children to thrive.

The coordinating center will work with the demonstration projects to:

- Collect data to measure and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the different models of care;
- Assist with national spread and sustainability of the promising models; and
- Provide national leadership through training, technical assistance, and education.

Projects will be measured by their achievement of specific objectives in July 2027 from a baseline to be measured in the initial year (2022), including:

- Increasing by 50 percent the number of families who report being actively engaged as decision makers in their child’s plan of care;
- Increasing by 50 percent the number of families who report an improved experience of care (as measured by the CAHPS survey);
- Increasing by 25 percent the number of families who report increased coordination of care and access to services (as measured by the PICS survey).

## APPLICATION

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Need (10 points)
- Response (35 points)
- Evaluative Measures (15 points)
- Impact (20 points)
- Resources/Capabilities (10 points)
- Support Requested (10 points)

## Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by March 7, 2022.

Questions regarding business, administrative, or fiscal issues may be submitted to Tya Renwick at [TRenwick@hrsa.gov](mailto:TRenwick@hrsa.gov). Questions regarding overall program issues and/or technical assistance may be submitted to Anna Maria Padlan at [APadlan@hrsa.gov](mailto:APadlan@hrsa.gov).