

RFA: One-Time Awards for School-Based Mental Health Clinic Services

OVERVIEW

On December 23rd, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for one-time grants to licensed Article 31 clinics to expand school-based mental health services. Using funding provided from the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act supplemental mental health block grant, OMH will provide a total of \$3 million across up to 120 awards for the development of school-based clinic satellite sites. Of this funding, a maximum of \$1.5 million will be awarded to New York City-based providers, while at least \$1.5 million will be allocated to providers outside of New York City.

The school-based satellite sites will support children and youth returning to school following the Covid-19 pandemic and increase access to in-person and telehealth services that divert the use of higher levels of care. The school-based satellite locations should be in areas:

- Significantly impacted by rates of Covid-19;
- Identified as being high needs (i.e., high rates of poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, etc.); and/or
- Serving disenfranchised or marginalized populations.

The full RFA is attached. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until March 1, 2022. Questions may be submitted to carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov.

FUNDING

Applicants may apply for start-up funds of \$25,000 per new school-based satellite clinic site. The site may be:

- A new school-based satellite location targeting high needs schools for children/youth and their families who are in need of mental health treatment;
- A new school-based satellite location for which the clinic has already submitted a Prior Approval Review (PAR) satellite application; or
- A school-based satellite site that has been issued an Operating Certificate (OC) in the last 180 days (since August 1, 2021). Agencies that have received an OC prior to this deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants may submit more than one application for each new satellite location. Upon approval for grant funding by OMH, providers who have not yet submitted a PAR application will be required to do so for each proposed site. Funding may not be used for the purchase of technical equipment for consumers or for substantial capital improvement.

Funding must be expended by December 31, 2022.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are OMH-licensed Article 31 clinic providers that serve children and adolescents. Applicants will be required to:

- Consult with the county mental health department representing the location of the clinic's main site to discuss the intent to start or expand services within the county; and
- Receive a Letter of Support from the school where the satellite will be located.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Start-up funding may be used to assist with the following:

- Establishment of new satellite location(s) to serve a greater number of children/families and/or an expanded catchment area targeting high needs and underserved areas;
- Creation of formal mechanisms for connections/partnership school districts and personnel for seamless referral processes and timely access to care;
- Efforts in marketing to, hiring, onboarding, and retaining more qualified staff for the growth and expansion of access to services; and
- Efforts in raising school/community awareness of mental health needs among children and adolescents and educating regarding services and access.

At the end of the grant period, providers will be required to submit a report with the following data and a narrative description on completed activities and achieved outcomes:

- Number of children/families served in the new program location(s);
- Number of additional/new FTEs, roles, and credentials employed by the program;
- Number of referrals received;
- Number of referrals who were admitted;
- Number of children on the waitlist for the program, if applicable; and
- Any additional expansions in service which were not captured.