

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.**  
Commissioner

**MOIRA TASHJIAN, MPA**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

## **Description:**

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is seeking interest from an OMH provider or vendor with subject matter expertise in Peer Navigation to expand timely access to community-based services. Specifically, these resources are intended to support eligible individuals with accessing Adult BH HCBS and/or CORE Services with the assistance of a Peer Navigator.<sup>1</sup> Trained Peer Navigators will offer personalized telephonic, face to face or text support to promote successful engagement and linkage to BH HCBS and CORE; this may include linkage to Health Homes, Recovery Coordination Agencies, and Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts to facilitate assessment and referral to services. The following supports will be included: education, referral promotion, toll-free access to Peer Navigator, and post-referral and enrollment follow-up, in alignment with the design and intent of the American Rescue Plan Act. Specifically, the Mental Health Block Grant “is designed to provide comprehensive community mental health services”.

## **Goals:**

The intent of this initiative is creation of a Peer Navigator training program that will also provide a statewide employee base of culturally competent and linguistically inclusive Peer Navigators who will engage, educate, encourage, and support HARP members at every step of the process to successfully support and increase enrollment in Adult BH HCBS or CORE. Trained Navigators will be employed by the vendor to engage in Peer Navigation.

Adult BH HCBS and CORE Services have an emphasis on rehabilitation and recovery, are driven by person-centered care planning, assist in the step down to lower levels of care, and promote community inclusion, family engagement, and provision of service delivery in the home or community. To address the present need for enrollee education about HARP benefits package and support through the referral and intake processes, this funding will:

- Support efforts in marketing to, hiring, onboarding, and retaining qualified Peer Navigators
- Build and facilitate a Peer Navigator Training Program to ensure workforce competencies in navigating the HARP benefit package

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible individuals for Navigation to BH HCBS includes HARP Enrollees and HARP-Eligible HIV-Special Needs Plan (SNP) Enrollees. Eligible individuals for Navigation to CORE Services includes HARP Enrollees, HARP-Eligible HIV-SNP Enrollees, and HARP-Eligible Medicaid Advantage Plus (MAP) Plan Enrollees.

- Educate community mental health providers, physical health providers, and HARP enrollees on the HARP benefit package, including specific information on the value of CORE Services and BH HCBS. Education may include virtual and in-person “lunch and learn” sessions or grand rounds with potential referral sources, the development of written materials and resources for clinicians and HARP members, and personalized outreach to clinicians who work with a high volume of HARP members.
- Creation of formal mechanisms for connections/partnership to OMH/OASAS clinics, health homes, or other service providers to promote seamless referral processes and access to care. This work may include linking a trained navigator with specific agencies or sites.  
Create simple, quick, statewide access to a Peer Navigator through a toll-free line that can be used by clinicians and eligible individuals in need of Peer Navigation support.

### **Eligible applicants:**

Eligible applicants are providers identified as operating one of the following:

- OMH licensed or funded Providers
- Vendors with subject matter expertise in Peer Navigation
- Vendors with demonstrated experience with Peer Support and Peer Navigation training and programming
- Vendors with subject matter expertise in Adult BH HCBS/CORE services

### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

OMH is committed to supporting efforts to achieve the underlying intent of the American Rescue Plan Act so individuals have access to needed community-based services. This initiative is anticipated to achieve the following outcomes:

- Development and facilitation of Peer Navigator Training Program focused on navigating the HARP benefit package
- Increased workforce able to support service access to eligible individuals
- Increased community awareness and education regarding HARP benefits and how to access them
- Hiring geographically, culturally, and linguistically appropriate staff with lived experience in the mental health and substance use realms in both part and fulltime positions. Individuals with lived experience navigating HARP benefits should be prioritized.
- Availability of assigned Peer Navigators to work directly with clinics and other high-volume providers serving eligible individuals.
- Development and staffing of real-time, statewide, toll-free access to a Peer Navigator.

- A significant increase in eligible individuals connected to and engaged in BH HCBS and CORE Services.

Program should have a commitment to racial equity and addressing disparities.

Please send your indication of interest via email to Carol Swiderski at [carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov](mailto:carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov).

Please indicate "CORE Peer Navigator" in the Subject Line.

Indication of Interest are due by Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

**Please note this is solely a Solicitation of Interest and does not guarantee an award or contract.**