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**School Based Mental Health Clinic Services for Children/Youth**  
*Supporting Growth: Access and Capacity Enhancement*  
**December 2021**

The New York State (NYS) Office of Mental Health (OMH) is providing one-time funding of \$25,000 per new school-based site to OMH providers to expand school-based mental health services. Specifically, these resources are intended to support children and youth returning to school for 2021-2022 in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, in alignment with the design and intent of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act. Specifically, the Mental Health Block Grant is “designed to provide comprehensive community mental health services, including services that address the needs of children, particularly in regard to school re-entry and related crises for children and adolescents.”

This grant opportunity is targeting the creation of new school-based mental health satellite clinic locations in areas of NYS that have been significantly impacted by rates of COVID, are identified as being high needs (high rates of poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, etc.), and/or serving disenfranchised or marginalized populations. Students, in these areas in particular, are in desperate need of access to mental health services and supports.

**Eligible Applicants:**

OMH Licensed Article 31 Clinic providers serving children and adolescents to establish school-based mental health clinic capacity. Eligible applicants for start-up funds of \$25,000 (per each new school-based satellite site) are current OMH licensed clinic providers identified as operating in good standing<sup>1</sup> with OMH one of the following:

- OMH-licensed Clinics<sup>2</sup> serving children/adolescents to create a new school based mental health clinic satellite location(s) targeting high needs schools for children/youth identified as needing mental health treatment, and their families.
- OMH-licensed Clinics serving children/adolescents who have submitted a Prior Approval review (PAR) satellite application or been recently issued a satellite clinic Operating Certificate (OC) in the last 180 days (since 8/1/2021) for a new school based mental health clinic satellite location(s) targeting high needs schools which opened/will be opened in the 2021-2022 school year. Note: Agencies who may have received an OC prior to 8/1/2021

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<sup>1</sup> “Good standing” for licensed programs is defined as a provider having an OMH accepted Performance Improvement Plan and not receiving or not under active Enhanced Provider Monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Upon acceptance of application, will require EZ PAR, which will be expedited.

for the creation of a school based mental health satellite clinic will be considered on a case-by-case basis if implemented in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.

An eligible applicant can submit more than one application for each new satellite location that will be open. Upon approval of the grant, providers will be required to submit a PAR for each new satellite location for approval by OMH.

**Goal of Funds:**

The intent of the funds is to build school-based clinic capacity through the development of satellite clinics in high needs/underserved areas, providing funding for activities to engage with school districts and establish new satellite locations. These funds will help support the early identification of mental health needs, address the ongoing and significant needs of children and the increase in access to treatment services. Greater availability of school based mental health services is an important post-pandemic effort to prevent long-term needs and challenges for children.

To address the present volume of need for school-based mental health services and support, funds will 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
- Efforts in raising school/community awareness of mental health needs among children and adolescents and educating regarding services and access

**Anticipated Outcomes:**

OMH is committed to supporting efforts to achieve the underlying intent of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act so that children and their families have access to needed community-based services. This funding allotment is intended to achieve the following:

- Increased service capacity to eligible and appropriate referrals
- Decreased length of stay on program and service waitlists
- Increased workforce to be able to support service access and service provision to eligible children and families
- Increased community awareness and education regarding the services and their availability/how to access them

**Timeframe:**

- Applications must be received by **March 1, 2022**
- Providers must expend funds by December 31, 2022

**To participate in this funding, providers will be required to:**

- (1) Consult with the local governmental unit (county mental health department) representing the location of the program's main site to discuss the intent to start or expand services within the county, to ensure alignment with county planning.
- (2) Get a Letter of Support from the School where the satellite will be located, verifying their agreement for the agency to implement a new clinic satellite location in the school.
- (3) Submit the application for funding as outlined below via email at:  
[omh.sm.childrenfamilyservices.blockgrant@omh.ny.gov](mailto:omh.sm.childrenfamilyservices.blockgrant@omh.ny.gov)
  - Subject line of the email must read: **School Based Mental Health Clinic Services for Children/Youth**
- (4) Notification of award status will be sent to all applicants. The release of funding may be further subject to the submission and approval of a EZ Prior Application Review (PAR) application, as necessary.
- (5) Providers must submit an end-of-grant report by December 31, 2022. Reports must include the following data, along with a narrative description on completed activities and achieved outcomes, noting both baseline and end-of-grant data for any of the following elements, as applicable:
  - 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 your waitlist for the program, if applicable
  - Any additional expansions in service which were not captured
- (6) Providers must submit a Grant Expense Report due by December 31, 2022. Note that expenditures from this award must be tracked and reported separately from all other expenditures.

**Application Process:**

OMH is allocating a total pool of \$3,000,000 for this funding opportunity. Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Approved applicants will receive funds on a first come/first served basis until funds are exhausted, with a maximum of \$1,500,000 awarded to New York City based providers and \$1,500,000 awarded to providers based outside of New York City. **Failure to be responsive to any section below will disqualify applicant from funding.**

To participate in this funding opportunity, eligible providers must submit an application requesting funding that includes the following. Applications will be reviewed against the criteria below:

- Background
  - Agency name, address
  - Type of eligible program and the grant opportunity for which you are applying (new satellite start up OR current application/previously approved satellite within last 90 days)
  - Name and contact information of the applicant/lead individual who will be overseeing the project.
  - Brief narrative statement and relevant data to demonstrate the satellite clinic location is in an area significantly impacted by rates of COVID, are identified as being high needs (high rates of poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, etc.) and/or serving disenfranchised or marginalized populations.
- Provide name of county official informed of your intent to apply for this grant opportunity.
- Letter of Support – from the school in which the satellite clinic will be located
- Baseline data
  - Number of children/families served by program: 2019, 2020.
  - Description of current clinic covered catchment area(s)/satellites
- Summary of proposed methods to meet intended goal of new school-based mental health sites through start-up funds, consisting of a maximum of 3 pages (for the “Summary” section) to include:
  - Activities proposed to meet the goals of funds
  - Projected capacity (e.g., as operationalized by the anticipated number of children/families served, etc.)
  - Provider’s plans on addressing cultural and linguistic needs of population and inclusion of families (may reference agency mission/strategic plan or work plan)
  - Provider’s plans for sustainability of services past the availability of grant funds

**Note:** MHBG funds cannot be used for purchase of technical equipment for consumers, nor for substantial capital improvements.