

NOFO: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program

OVERVIEW

On March 18th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year 2022 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grant Program. This program aims to improve outcomes for children by developing, maintaining, or enhancing infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment services.

SAMHSA will award \$2 million in total funding across four awardees for the provision of:

- Programs for children at significant risk of developing, showing early signs of, or having been diagnosed with a mental illness; and
- Multigenerational therapy and other services that strengthen positive changing relationships.

The NOFO is available [here](#). Applications are due on May 17th.

FUNDING

SAMHSA will award up to \$500,000 annually to four organizations. No more than 20 percent of the total grant award for the budget period may be used for data collection, performance measurements, and performance assessment. Cash or in-kind matching funds (either directly or through donations from public/private entities) are required in an amount no less than 10 percent of the total grant award.

Awarded applicants must use third-party reimbursement and other revenue realized from the provision of services to the extent possible. Grant funds should only be used for: services to individuals who are not covered by public or commercial health insurance programs; services to individuals for whom coverage has been formally determined to be unaffordable; or services that are not sufficiently covered by an individual's health insurance plan.

Contracts will last for up to five years, starting on September 30th.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are human services agencies or not-for-profit organizations that:

- Employ licensed mental health professionals who have specialized training and experience in infant and early childhood mental health assessment, diagnosis, and treatment or who are accredited or approved to provide mental health promotion, intervention, or treatment services to children up to age 12; and
- Provide infant and early childhood mental health services or programs that are evidence-based or that have been scientifically demonstrated to show promise but would benefit from further applied development.

Organizations may submit more than one application; however, a separate application and project title is required for each proposed project.

Key personnel for this program are a full-time Project Director and a part-time Lead Evaluator. Both positions will require prior approval by SAMHSA.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Awarded applicants must:

- Provide age-appropriate assessment and intervention services for children at risk of, showing early signs of, or having been diagnosed with a mental illness, including serious emotional disturbance;
- Provide infant and early childhood mental health consultation to early care and education programs that work with children and families;
- Provide training to child and family-serving professionals with expertise in infant and early childhood mental health;
- Provide specialized training for mental health clinicians in infant and early childhood mental health; and
- Develop a sustainability plan to ensure that services and workforce development will continue at the conclusion of the grant period.

Applicants must indicate the total number of unduplicated individuals that will be served and trained each year of the grant and over the total project period.

Awarded applicants will be expected to develop a behavioral health disparity impact statement no later than 60 days after the award. Project implementation is expected to begin by the fourth month after receipt of grant funding.

APPLICATIONS

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following:

- Population of Focus and Statement of Need (15 points)
- Proposed Implementation Approach (40 points)
- Proposed Evidence-Based Service/Practice (25 points)
- Data Collection and Performance Management (20 points)

In determining awards, SAMHSA will also consider an equitable distribution of awards in terms of geography, populations of focus, and program size.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by May 17th. Awards are expected to be announced on August 12th.

Program/eligibility questions may be submitted to Caitlin Fitzsimmons at Caitlin.fitzsimmons@samhsa.hhs.gov. Fiscal/budget questions may be submitted to FOACMHS@samhsa.hhs.gov. Grant review process and application status questions may be submitted to Angela Houde at angela.houde@samhsa.hhs.gov.