

RFP: Expedited Engagement Program

OVERVIEW

On March 30th, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for one contractor to operate an Expedited Engagement Program in the Bronx and/or Brooklyn. This program will proactively reach out to individuals affected by racial inequity who may require mental health resources and other supports. A Family Connection Specialist employed by the program will link young adults and their families to an array of mental health and/or community-based services and social supports.

OMH will provide a total of \$600,000 during the five-year program period to one awarded contractor for the operation of the program.

The RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on June 7th.

FUNDING

The awarded contractor will receive \$120,000 in annual funding. Administrative costs may not exceed 15 percent of the budget.

Contracts will last for five years beginning on October 1st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies with experience providing mental health services to individuals with serious mental illness.

PROGRAM SERVICES

The awarded contractor must develop and maintain an expedited engagement and outreach program that will serve individuals in the Bronx and/or Brooklyn. The program must:

- Employ at least one full-time Family Connection Specialist who will provide telephonic and in-person assistance, psychoeducation, and connections to health/behavioral care and other community-based services and supports;
- Provide language access to racial/ethnic minorities with limited English proficiency;
- Provide services that are trauma-informed and culturally competent;
- Establish a platform for receiving community-based referrals and provide outreach to those referrals within two business days by trained volunteers or staff; and
- Market the program through public education, outreach efforts, and other promotional events.

TARGET POPULATION

To receive services through this program, individuals must:

- Be New York City residents;
- Be aged 18-25 years; and

- Have experienced (or be a family member of someone who has experienced) racism or racial inequity in the community.

Since the program is not Medicaid-funded, citizenship is not required in order to receive services.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Population (10 points)
- Description of Program (30 points)
- Implementation (15 points)
- Reporting and Quality Improvement (15 points)
- Financial Assessment (20 points)
- Equity Language (10 points)

Proposals must receive a minimum score of 70 to be considered for funding. In the event of a tie, the applicant with the highest score on the “Description of Program” section will receive the higher ranking.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by June 7th. Interested parties are required to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent to carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov with the subject line “Expedited Engagement RFP” by May 25th. Awards are expected to be announced on July 1st.

Questions may be submitted to the email address above by April 20th. Answers to questions will be posted on the OMH website on May 17th.