

RFA: One-Time Grants for Community Supports

OVERVIEW

On April 5th, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for one-time funding to expand activities that support children and families with significant mental health needs. Through this RFA, OMH will provide \$2 million in total funding for the expansion of non-treatment services for children and families that:

- Have been considerably impacted by rates of Covid-19;
- Are identified as being high needs (e.g., homelessness, food insecurity, etc.); and /or
- Are disenfranchised or marginalized populations (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities).

This funding is made available through supplemental funding allocated by the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act to the Mental Health Block Grant program.

The RFA is available [here](#). Applications are due on July 1st. Applications will be reviewed in the order received and funding will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until funds are exhausted.

FUNDING

OMH will provide one-time grants of \$30,000 per entity. Funding may not be used for:

- Technical equipment for consumers; or
- Substantial capital improvements.

Funding must be expended by December 31, 2023.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit community-based agencies that:

- Offer non-licensed mental health-oriented supportive services;
- Contract with or are funded by the local county mental health department with local funds, State Aid monies, or direct OMH contracts; and
- Have at least one year of experience through funded/contracted programs serving children and families with significant mental health needs or experiencing mental health crises.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities may include the expansion of existing community support services and additional activities or approaches to outreach to, engage, and/or serve the target population. Services should mitigate the risk of mental health crisis and/or involvement in emergency services and hospitalizations.

Applicants must apply to increase access to one of the following funded programs and services:

- Respite;
- Family and/or youth peer support;
- Non-Medicaid care management;
- Suicide prevention;

- School-based mental health services; or
- Other funded services that meet the goals of the funding opportunity and that have been identified as in need of expansion.

Examples of non-licensed community support services may include:

- Care management and referral processes providing direct connection, linkages, and support for high needs non-Medicaid youth and families to needed services;
- Peer advocacy and assistance for children and families struggling to navigate, access, or receive adequate services and supports;
- Social, emotional, or other support programming for families having first experiences or ongoing challenges with mental health crises;
- Psycho-education groups, training, and ongoing initiatives that provide education and promote mental health resources and engagement in available community services and programs; and
- Opportunities for respite and support for children with mental health needs and their families to reduce stressors and increase community integration.

TIMELINE

Proposals must be submitted by July 1st. Applications will be reviewed in the order received and funding will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until funds are exhausted.

Questions may be submitted to Carol.Swidorski@omh.ny.gov.