

School-Based Mental Health Satellite Clinic Expansion RFA

OVERVIEW

On August 3rd, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) to support recently implemented or newly created school-based Mental Health clinic satellites that promote direct and timely access to mental health treatment and coordinated care for students and their families.

Each awarded satellite will receive \$25,000 in start-up funding and, if established in a high-needs district, an additional \$20,000, for a total of up to \$45,000. For this RFA, OMH has identified high needs districts as those in which at least 50% of the student population classified as economically disadvantaged. OMH plans to make between 184 and 332 awards, totaling \$8.3 million. The awarded contracts will be for two years, beginning January 1, 2024.

The full RFA is available [here](#). Applications are due by October 5th.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are current OMH-licensed Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (MHOTRS) providers serving children/adolescents and who meet one of the following criteria:

- Aims to create a new school-based mental health satellite location(s) in the 2023-2024 school year;
- Has already submitted a Prior Approval Review (PAR) to operate a satellite location; or
- Has been issued an operating certificate for a new satellite location(s) which opened in the 2022-2023 school year or is projected to start in the 2023-2024 school year.

Applicants can submit one application for each new satellite location that will be newly opened or recently implemented. Upon approval of the application, providers that have not already submitted a PAR will be required to submit an EZ PAR for expedited approval by OMH. To further expedite processes, eligible applicants may opt to begin the PAR process concurrent to the application review.

All applicants are required to secure a Letter of Support from the school(s) where each satellite will be located. In New York City (NYC), a letter of support from a Department of Education (DOE) school requires joint consultation with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and Office of School Health, which can be scheduled by contacting CYFNYCDOHMH@health.nyc.gov. DOE will support applicants to connect with identified schools with a need for satellite clinics, or applicants may propose a school if they have already identified one.

Providers that previously received funding from the “Mental Health Block Grant School-Based Mental Health Clinic Services for Children/Youth Supporting Growth: Access and Capacity Enhancement

Grant” in December 2021 are not eligible for funding for that site. However, these providers may apply for funding for a different site.

Funding

Each awarded satellite will receive \$25,000 in start-up funding and, if established in a high-needs district, an additional \$20,000 in funding, for a total of \$45,000. OMH has identified high-needs districts as having at least 50% of the student population classified as economically disadvantaged. All high-needs districts are listed in the Pre-Submission upload page in the State’s Grants Gateway portal.

School-based satellites will use start-up funding to build their capacity and to offset the following expenses:

- Costs associated with developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other formal agreements made with individual school districts to support operating a school-based satellite;
- Non-reimbursable activities performed by the on-site clinician(s) to engage students and families;
- Non-reimbursable activities related to the necessary coordination, consultation, and collaboration between on-site clinician(s) and school personnel;
- Materials and therapeutic products to support clinical activities and interventions;
- Costs for new staff or retention funds for current staffing;
- Start-up costs to support the sustainability of the satellite, including increased administrative support, reduced productivity as caseloads are established and grown, etc.; and/or
- Costs to support efforts in raising school/community awareness of mental health needs and education regarding MHOTRS services.

If a school-based satellite clinic is not established as indicated in the proposal within 18 months of the date of the award (January 1, 2024), funds may be recouped.

Application Components

To participate in this funding opportunity, eligible providers must submit an application that includes the following components:

- Application information (basic contact information pertaining to the applicant provider and the identified school); and
- Application narrative:
 - Brief statement demonstrating need for the satellite;
 - For programming established in the 2022-2023 school year: Brief narrative statement of current school-based satellite implementation and operations;
 - For programming scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year: brief narrative statement of plan and timeline for full implementation of the satellite;
 - Consultation with the county mental health department representing the program’s main site (DOHMH for NYC providers);

- Plan for utilizing funds;
- Projected outcomes of funding use;
- Projected capacity (e.g. the anticipated number of children/families served, etc.);
- Plan for integrating family work in the school-based satellite clinic;
- Plan for addressing substance use needs of children/youth;
- Plan on addressing cultural/linguistic needs of population and inclusion of families;
- Plan for sustainability of services past the availability of grant funds.

Narratives may receive a maximum score of 20 points. Applicants must receive a minimum of 9 points to pass. Awards will be made to all passing applicants, starting with the highest scoring application, then alternating between applications for sites in NYC and the rest of state, in highest score order, until all requested funds are expended.

Applications must be submitted online via the Grants Gateway, available [here](#).

Application Timeline

The application timeline is as follows:

- **August 22nd**: Questions may be emailed to Carol Swiderski at OMHLocalProcurement@omh.ny.gov with the subject line “School Based MH Clinic RFA”.
- **September 12th**: Questions and answers are posted to the OMH website [here](#).
- **October 5th**: Applications are due by 1pm.

Awarded applicants are expected to be notified on October 31st, with a contract start date of January 1, 2024.