

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

Prevention Services for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in New Jersey Middle or High Schools

TAKE NOTICE that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, 34.5 and 34.6, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) hereby announces the availability of the grant program funds described herein.

Program Name: Prevention Services for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in New Jersey Middle or High Schools

Purpose: This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for Prevention Services for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) youth in New Jersey middle or high schools. Funding for services will be provided by the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Total annualized funding is \$225,000 subject to Federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making one \$225,000 award in the central region of the state as indicated below. DMHAS currently funds two programs that serve LGBTQ youth in northern and southern New Jersey.

Central: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union Counties

Research indicates that young adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or queer/questioning have 1.3 times the odds of heavy alcohol use, 1.6 times the odds of marijuana use, 2.9 times the odds of injection drug use, and 3.3 times the odds of cocaine use than their non-LGBTQ peers.¹ Identifying as LGBTQ affects girls' substance use risk more dramatically than boys', though boys are more likely to use drugs and alcohol overall. There is some evidence that bisexual youth are particularly likely to use alcohol and other drugs.² DMHAS seeks proposals for prevention programs and non-clinical services for LGBTQ youth that are comprehensive and that employ prevention strategies that are evidence-based or that have been empirically demonstrated as effective in working with this population.

The successful bidder will ensure that the services provided ensure diversity, inclusion, equity, and cultural and linguistic competence to the target population. The successful bidder will continually assess and utilize demographic data of participants' catchment

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual (LGB) Adults (Annual Report). samhsa.gov. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2018-nsduh-lesbian-gay-bisexual-lgb-adults>. Published January 14, 2020.

² PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG LGBTQ TEENS. Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Growing Up LGBT in America. Washington, DC: Human Rights Campaign, 2012, <http://www.hrc.org/youth-report>

area in its development and delivery of programming, evaluation, and program outcomes to ensure it is relevant to the population served. Additionally, the successful bidder will analyze data to implement strategies to increase program participation.

Available Funding Amount: Total funding for this initiative is \$225,000 subject to Federal appropriations.

Who Can Apply/Bidder Qualifications: To be eligible for consideration for this RFP, the bidder must satisfy the following requirements:

- The bidder must be a non-profit or governmental entity;
- The bidder must be licensed by the Department of Health Certificate of Need Licensing Office prior to the start of services if it is a substance use disorder treatment provider;
- For a bidder that has a contract with DMHAS in place when this RFP is issued, that bidder must have all outstanding Plans of Correction for deficiencies submitted to DMHAS for approval prior to submission;
- The bidder must be fiscally viable based upon an assessment of the bidder's audited financial statements. If a bidder is determined, in DMHAS' sole discretion, to be insolvent or to present insolvency within the twelve (12) months after bid submission, DMHAS will deem the proposal ineligible for contract award;
- The bidder must not appear on the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report³ or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds; and
- The bidder shall not employ a member of the Board of Directors as an employee or in a consultant capacity.

Proposal Procedure: Effective March 9, 2023, the Request for Proposal (RFP) is available at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/>. A proposal must be submitted that comports with the RFP requirements and instructions.

Proposal Receiving Office: Helen Staton
Department of Human Services
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
PO Box 362
Trenton, NJ 08625-0362

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. ET on April 6, 2023.

Notification Date: Bidders will be notified on or before April 28, 2023.

Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

Date

³ <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml>