

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**OUTPATIENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS  
WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

October 19, 2020

Valerie Mielke, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Purpose and Intent .....	3
II.	Background and Population to be Served .....	3
III.	Who Can Apply?.....	4
IV.	Contract Scope of Work .....	4
V.	General Contracting Information.....	6
VI.	Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting.....	7
VII.	Required Proposal Content .....	8
VIII.	Submission of Proposals .....	13
IX.	Review of Proposals.....	14
X.	Appeal of Award Decisions.....	15
XI.	Post Award Required Documentation.....	15
XII.	Attachments.....	16
	Attachment A – Proposal Cover Sheet.....	17
	Attachment B – Addendum to RFP for Social Service and Training Contracts...	18
	Attachment C – Statement of Assurances.....	19
	Attachment D - Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions .....	21

## **I. Purpose and Intent**

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop outpatient and case management service capacity for adults who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Total annualized funding of \$390,000 is available, subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates issuing one (1) contract award to provide clinical and case management mental health services utilizing American Sign Language (ASL) for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing, who are in need mental health outpatient or case management services in any of the following counties; Atlantic, Cape May, Camden, Burlington, Monmouth, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties.

The final contract award amount is subject to negotiations and will be finalized after determination of the contract period of performance considering the contractee's accounting period.

The following summarizes the RFP schedule:

October 19, 2020	Notice of Funding Availability
October 28, 2020	Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting
November 25, 2020	Deadline for receipt of proposals - no later than 4:00 p.m.
December 28, 2020	Preliminary award announcement
January 5, 2021	Appeal deadline
January 12, 2021	Final award announcement
March 1, 2021	Anticipated contract start date

## **II. Background and Population to be Served**

DMHAS seeks to make outpatient services available and accessible to adults who are Deaf or hard of hearing and use ASL or sign language as their primary mode of communication. The goal of this RFP is to provide funding to develop outpatient and case management service capacity for adults in need of outpatient mental health services, inclusive of outreach to the Deaf community to make them aware of these services. Funding is limited to the identified counties for those who seek assessment, screening and/or treatment for a mental illness or issue relating to mental illness.

For the purpose of this RFP, a person with a disability is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The services provided with funds from this RFP will be limited to serve those who use ASL or sign language as their primary language and who communicate best through use of a qualified interpreter.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS), Principal Standard 1, specifies “Provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs”. As such, services delivered using ASL are strongly preferred.<sup>1</sup>

### **III. Who Can Apply?**

To be eligible for consideration for this RFP, the bidder must satisfy the following requirements:

- The bidder must be a non-profit, for-profit or a government entity;
- The bidder must be licensed by the Department of Health - Office of Certificate of Need and Licensing, to provide outpatient services prior to the start of services;
- 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 (PoC) 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 Report at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml> or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds;
- The bidder shall not employ a member of the Board of Directors in a consultant capacity;
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, a for-profit bidder and each proposed subcontractor must have a valid Business Registration Certificate on file with the Department of Treasury. The statutory requirement does not apply to non-profit organizations, private colleges and universities, or state and municipal agencies;
- The bidder must attend the Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting as described in the RFP; and
- The bidder must conform to the requirements of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certification or use service providers that adhere to these certification requirements.

### **IV. Contract Scope of Work**

DMHAS is seeking to develop service capacity to provide outpatient and case management services for individuals who require ASL interpreter services or use ASL as their primary mode of communication in the following counties; Atlantic, Cape May,

---

<sup>1</sup> Page 13, National Standards for CLAS in Health and Health Care: A Blueprint for Advancing and Sustaining CLAS Policy and Practice Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, April 2013

Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Mercer, Middlesex, Burlington, Ocean, and Salem Counties. The successful bidder will increase accessibility to linguistically and culturally appropriate services for NJ's Deaf and hard of hearing population by providing direct services, to be provided by staff proficient in ASL or other acceptable modes of communication to individuals in the identified counties, and who are culturally competent in working with individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing. It is the expectation that the successful bidder can be centrally located but will have mobile service delivery capacity. On-site services must be provided at a licensed location. Moreover, it is expected that the successful bidder will develop agreements with area agencies that have individuals who are Deaf and/or hard of hearing to collaborate as appropriate.

Services provided should be person-centered, consumer-driven, and demonstrate flexible service and service hours. The successful bidder must demonstrate the ability to fully operationalize services identified in this project within three months after final award notification.

All proposals must include collaboration with other organizations including, but not limited to: state and county offices for the disabled, centers for independent living, statewide or nationwide membership organizations, support service agencies, and professional and/or provider organizations. This collaboration may focus on ways of expanding outreach, providing cross-referrals, examining reasons for disproportionately low admission rates of these populations, soliciting input from consumers receiving services and other innovative methods. Subcontracting for a significant portion of the services provided through this initiative is not permitted. Funding is intended to enable agencies to serve individuals directly, with the understanding that some professional services may need to be subcontracted. Limited funding will be available for interpreter services. Bidders are required to consider and use other funding sources for interpreter services as well. The goal of this contract will be to limit or alleviate service gaps for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

During the phase-in of this program, the successful bidder will be required to consult with the New Jersey DHS, Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) to ensure that up-to-date and culturally competent strategies and resources are utilized to implement services. During the phase-in of services, until such time as services are fully operational at the contracted level of service, monthly reports will be required to monitor implementation and utilization of services. Data collected will include demographics regarding individuals outreached and served. DDHH and DMHAS will develop the reporting content and format requirements.

The successful bidder will be required to submit quarterly reports on the service performance of the program, including details of income and expenditure of funds incurred through the provision of interpreter services, once the program is fully implemented. Bidders will need to develop a service evaluation plan which, at a minimum, will: identify specific programmatic elements that will be measured, describe the specific evaluation tool that will be used, identify if an outside evaluator will be used, and include a description of the data collection process that will be reported. The successful bidder

will be required to certify that direct care staff maintain a rating 4.0 or above on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI). The bidder also should outline if and how telehealth services will be used to make the service more geographically accessible.

The successful bidder will provide resource information regarding services to the Deaf, hard of hearing and disabled communities, by advertising treatment options, services, and current trends in treatment for Deaf, or hard of hearing, individuals. The successful bidder will also include marketing strategies and education to other contracted behavioral health providers regarding communication access services for the Deaf and hard of hearing.

The successful bidder should describe what up-to-date mode of communication devices will be utilized to ensure timely communication with the Deaf community. The contractee will maintain a log indicating date, time, purpose, follow-up, and recommendations for all communications received, including the method of communication (e.g. video relay, email). The contractee will advertise the contact information and program availability to multiple sources within the Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

## **V. General Contracting Information**

Bidders must currently meet or be able to meet the terms and conditions of the Department of Human Services (DHS) contracting policies and procedures as set forth in the Standard Language Document (SLD), the Contract Reimbursement Manual (CRM) and the Contract Policy and Information Manual (CPIM). These documents are available on the DMHAS website at: <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/provider/contracting/>

Bidders are required to comply with the Affirmative Action Requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 124 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (P.L. 101-336).

Budgets should be reasonable and reflect the scope of responsibilities in order to accomplish the goals of this project.

All bidders will be notified in writing of the State's intent to award a contract. All proposals are considered public information and will be made available for a defined period after announcement of the contract awards and prior to final award, as well as through the State Open Public Records Act process at the conclusion of the RFP process.

The contract awarded as a result of this RFP may be renewable for one (1) year at DMHAS' sole discretion and with the agreement of the awardee. Funds may only be used to support services that are specific to this award; hence, this funding may not be used to supplant or duplicate existing funding streams. Actual funding levels will depend on the availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

In accordance with DHS Policy P1.12 available on the web at <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/olra/ocpm/resources/manuals/index.html> programs awarded pursuant to this RFP will be separately clustered until the DMHAS determines, in its sole discretion, that the program is stable in terms of service provision, expenditures, and applicable revenue generation.

In the event service provision is delayed through no fault of the provider, funding continuation will be considered on a case-by-case basis, based upon the circumstances creating the delay. In no case shall funding be provided for a period of non-service provision in excess of three (3) months. In the event that the timeframe will be longer than three (3) months, DMHAS must be notified so the circumstances resulting in the anticipated delay may be reviewed and addressed. Should services not be rendered, funds provided pursuant to this agreement shall be returned to DMHAS.

The bidder must comply with all rules and regulations for any DMHAS program element of service proposed by the bidder. Additionally, please take note of Community Mental Health Services Regulations, N.J.A.C. 10:37, which apply to all contracted mental health services. These regulations can be accessed at <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/rulefees/regs/>

## **VI. Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting**

A bidder intending to submit a proposal in response to this RFP must attend a Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting. It is the responsibility of the bidder to call in/sign in/log on promptly at the beginning of the Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting and make sure that their presence/participation is noted, as a role call will be conducted at the outset of the meeting. A proposal submitted by a bidder not in attendance will not be considered. The Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: October 28, 2020  
Time: 10am

The Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting will provide the bidder with an opportunity to ask questions about the RFP requirements, the award process, and to clarify technical aspects of the RFP. This ensures that all potential bidders have equal access to information. Questions regarding intent or allowable responses to the RFP, outside the Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting, are not permitted. Specific individual guidance will not be provided to individual bidders at any time.

Potential respondents to this RFP are requested to register for the Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting via the registration link <https://njsams.rutgers.edu/training/osdhh/Register.aspx> by 4pm on October 26, 2020. A separate link to access the Mandatory Bidders Zoom Meeting will be sent to those that register via the registration link.

Additionally, if you require assistance with this registration link, please contact [Alicia.Meyer@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:Alicia.Meyer@dhs.nj.gov) no later than two (2) days prior to the Mandatory Bidders Conference.

## **VII. Required Proposal Content**

All bidders must submit a written narrative proposal that addresses the following topics and adheres to all instructions and includes required supporting documentation noted below:

### **Funding Proposal Cover Sheet (RFP Attachment A)**

#### **Bidder's Organization, History and Experience (5 points)**

Provide a brief and concise summary of the bidder's background and experience in implementing this or related types of services and explain how the bidder is qualified to fulfill the obligations of the RFP. The written narrative should:

1. Describe the agency's history, mission, purpose, current licenses and modalities, and record of accomplishments. Explain the work with the target population and the number of years' experience and success with interpreter referral services and/or disabilities (as defined by the American Disabilities Act).
2. Describe the bidder's background and experience in implementing this or related types of services. Describe why the bidder is the most appropriate and best qualified to implement this program in the target service area.
3. Summarize the bidder's administrative and organizational capacity to establish and implement sound administrative practices and successfully carry out the proposed program.
4. Describe the bidder's current status and history relative to debarment by any State, Federal or local government agency. If there is debarment activity, it must be explained with supporting documentation as an appendix to the bidder's proposal.
5. Provide a description of all active litigation in which the bidder is involved, including pending litigation of which the bidder has received notice. Failure to disclose active or pending litigation may result in the agency being ineligible for contract award at DMHAS' sole discretion.
6. Include a description of the bidder's ability to provide culturally competent services.
7. Document that the bidder's submissions are up-to-date in New Jersey Substance Abuse Management System (NJSAMS), Unified Service Transaction Form (USTF), Quarterly Contract Monitoring Report (QCMR) and Bed Enrollment Data System (BEDS) (if applicable).
8. Describe the bidder's current status and compliance with contract commitments in regard to programmatic performance and level of service, if applicable.

#### **Project Description (25 points)**

In this section, the bidder is to provide an overview of how the services detailed in the scope of work will be implemented and the timeframes involved, specifically addressing the following:



1. The bidder's proposed approach to fulfilling the requirements described in the RFP, including the following:
  - a. how the bidder's approach satisfies the requirements as stated in the RFP;
  - b. the bidder's understanding of the project goals and measurable objectives;
  - c. the bidder's needs assessment to justify the services;
  - d. all anticipated collaboration with other entities, including the NJ Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in the course of fulfilling the requirements of the contract resulting from this RFP;
  - e. all anticipated barriers and potential problems the bidder foresees itself and/or the State encountering in the successful realization of the initiative described herein; and
  - f. all other resources needed by the bidder to satisfy the requirements of the contract resulting from this RFP.
2. The evidence-based practice(s) that will be used in the design and implementation of the program.
3. The bidder's capacity to accommodate all consumers who take legitimately prescribed medications and who are referred to or present for admission.
4. Summary of the policies that prohibit discrimination against consumers who are assisted in their prevention, treatment and/or recovery from substance use disorders and/or mental illness with legitimately prescribed medication/s.
5. A description of the bidder's last Continuous Quality Improvement effort, identified issue(s), actions taken, and outcome(s).
6. The implementation schedule for the contract, including a detailed monthly timeline of activities, commencing with the date of award, through service initiation, to timely contract closure.
7. Provide a detailed description of the management of this program. Describe how communication accessibility services for individuals in the identified population will be accessed. Discuss the specific types of services that will be included.
8. Describe objectives to ensure access to persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing in a timely, efficient manner. List the method(s) to be used to attain objective(s) described above and note the dates of estimated completion.
9. Describe how funding will be allocated for a full year of services.
10. The bidder should describe how they will increase accessibility to linguistically and culturally appropriate services for the Deaf and hard of hearing population in the Southern New Jersey counties identified.
11. Proposals must include ways to assist with communication accessibility to behavioral health services for individuals who are Deaf and/or hard of hearing via certified ASL interpreters and/or Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) services. Limited funding for interpreters is included in this RFP. These services include group, family, and individual treatment in emergency service and outpatient settings. Assistive listening devices will be made available to programs for services for individuals who are hard of hearing and prefer this mode of communication access.
12. Describe the marketing strategies and education to other contracted behavioral health providers regarding communication access services for the Deaf and/or hard of hearing.

13. Describe outcome measures and include the data collection process to submit quarterly reports.
14. Describe the agency plan to work collaboratively with various social service agencies which may include, but not be limited to: alcohol and drug treatment providers, county offices for the disabled, centers for independent living, statewide or nationwide membership organizations, support service agencies, and professional and provider organizations. Include Letters of Support/Affiliation Agreements from agencies/organizations.

### **Outcome(s) and Evaluation (10 points)**

Provide the following information related to the projected outcomes associated with the proposal as well any evaluation method that will be utilized to measure successes and/or challenges associated with this project:

1. The bidder's approach to measure ability to outreach and serve individuals who will benefit from this services.
2. The bidder's approach to measurement of consumer satisfaction.
3. The bidder's measurement of the achievement of identified goals and objectives.
4. The evaluation of contract outcomes.
5. Description of all tools to be used in the evaluation.
6. Details about any outside entity planned for use to conduct the evaluation, including but not limited to the entity's name, contact information, brief description of credentials and experience conducting program evaluation.

### **Staffing (25 points)**

Bidders must determine the staff structure to satisfy the contract requirements. Bidders should describe the proposed staffing structure and identify the number of staff proposed, including the hiring plan to meet the needs of the program.

1. Describe the composition and skill set of the proposed program team, including staff qualifications.
2. Provide details of the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing required to satisfy the contract scope of work. Describe proposed staff qualifications, including professional licensing and related experience. Details should include currently on-board or to be hired staff, with details of the recruitment effort.
3. Describe how and when interpreters will be utilized, and how scheduling of interpreters will be organized in a cost-effective manner.
4. Provide copies of job descriptions or resumes as an appendix – limited to two (2) pages each – for all proposed staff.
5. Identify the number of work hours per week that constitute each FTE in the bidder's proposal. If applicable, define the Part Time Equivalent (PTE) work hours.
6. Description of the proposed organizational structure, including the submission of an organizational chart as an appendix to the bidder's proposal.
7. The bidder's hiring policies, including background and credential checks, as well as handling of prior criminal convictions.
8. Provide a detailed description of the proposed strategy for recruiting staff.

9. A list of the bidder's board members and current term, including each member's professional licensure and organizational affiliation(s). The bidder's proposal must identify each board member who is also an employee of the bidder or an affiliate of the bidder. The proposal shall indicate if the Board of Directors vote on contract-related matters.
10. A list of names of consultants the bidder intends to utilize for the contract resulting from this RFP, including each consultant's professional licensure and organizational affiliation(s). Each consultant must be further described as to whether they are also a board member and, if so, whether they are a voting member. The bidder must identify all reimbursement the consultant received as a board member over the last twelve (12) months.
11. All interpreters (if used) must have a current Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certification. Other technologies can be offered if the patient/client uses that as their primary communication. Include information on the composition and skill set of the proposed program team, including qualifications.

### **Facilities, Logistics, Equipment (10 points)**

The bidder should detail the facilities where its normal business operations will be performed and identify equipment and other logistical issues, including at a minimum:

1. A description of the manner in which tangible assets, i.e., computers, phones, other special service equipment, etc., will be acquired and allocated.
2. A description of the bidder's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to its facilities and/or offices for individuals with disabilities.

### **Budget (25 points)**

Provide detailed budget information employing the Annex B categories for expenses and revenues, utilizing the excel template which will be distributed via e-mail after the mandatory bidders conference. The template contains three clearly labeled separate areas; one to show annualized operating costs and revenues, one to show one-time costs, and one to show the phase-in operating costs and revenues related to your proposed start date through the point in time the at which services are fully operational.

DMHAS will consider the cost efficiency of the proposed budget as it relates to the scope of work. Therefore, bidders must clearly indicate how this funding will be used to meet the program goals and/or requirements. In addition to the required Budget forms, bidders are asked to provide budget notes.

The budget should be reasonable and reflect the scope of responsibilities required to accomplish the goals of this project. All costs associated with the completion of the project must be delineated and the budget notes must clearly articulate the details of all proposed budget items including a description of miscellaneous expenses and other costs. DMHAS will consider one-time funding requests for the initiation of services.

1. A budget detailing the phase in costs is required. The standard budget categories for expenses include: A. Personnel, B. Consultants and Professionals, C. Materials &

Supplies, D. Facility Costs, E. Specific Assistance to Clients, and F. Other. Supporting schedules for Revenue and General and Administrative Costs Allocation are also required. The Excel budget template will be emailed to all attendees from the Mandatory Bidders Conference.

2. Budget Notes that detail and explain the proposed budget methodology and estimates and assumptions made for expenses and the calculations/computations to support the proposed budget. The State's proposal reviewers need to fully understand the bidder's budget projections from the information presented in its proposal. Failure to provide adequate information could result in lower ranking of the proposal. Budget Notes, to the extent possible, should be displayed on the Excel template itself.
3. The name and address of each organization – other than third-party payers – providing support and/or money to help fund the program for which the proposal is being submitted.
4. For all proposed personnel, the template should identify the staff position titles and total hours per workweek.
5. Identify the number of hours per clinical consultant.
6. Staff fringe benefit expenses, which may be presented as a percentage factor of total salary costs, should be consistent with the bidder's current fringe benefit package.
7. If applicable, General and Administrative (G&A) expenses, otherwise known as indirect or overhead costs, should be included if attributable and allocable to the proposed program. Since administrative costs for existing DMHAS programs reallocated to a new program do not require new DMHAS resources, a bidder that currently contracts with DMHAS should limit its G&A expense projection to “new” G&A only by showing the full amount of G&A as an expense and the off-set savings from other programs’ G&A in the revenue section.
8. Written assurance that if the bidder receives an award pursuant to this RFP, it will pursue all available sources of revenue and support upon award and in future contracts, including agreement to obtain approval as a Medicaid-eligible provider.

## **Appendices**

The following items must be included as appendices with the bidder's proposal, limiting appendices to a total of 40 pages:

1. Mission statement;
2. Organizational chart;
3. Job descriptions of key personnel;
4. Resumes of proposed personnel if currently on staff, limited to two (2) pages each;
5. A description of all pending and in-process audits identifying the requestor, the firm’s name and telephone number, and the type and scope of the audit;
6. List of the board of directors, officers and terms;
7. Copy of documentation of the bidder’s charitable registration status;
8. Original and/or copies of letters of commitment/support;
9. Department of Human Services Statement of Assurances (RFP Attachment C);
10. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions (RFP Attachment D);
11. Disclosure of Investment in Iran ([www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml)); and

12. Statement of Bidder/Vendor Ownership Disclosure  
([www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml)).

The documents listed below are also required with the proposal, unless the bidder has a current contract with DMHAS and these documents are current and on file with DMHAS.

1. Most recent single audit report (A133) or certified statements (submit only two [2] copies); and
2. Any other audits performed in the last two (2) years (submit only two [2] copies).

**VIII. Submission of Proposal Requirements**

DMHAS assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by the bidder in the preparation and submittal of a proposal in response to this RFP. The narrative portion of the proposal should not exceed twenty (20) pages, be single-spaced with one (1") inch margins, and no smaller than twelve (12) point Arial, Courier or Times New Roman font. DMHAS will not consider any information submitted beyond the page limit for RFP evaluation purposes.

The budget notes and appendix items do not count towards the narrative page limit. Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 25, 2020. All bidders are required to submit one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal narrative, budget and appendices (six [6] total proposal packages) to the following address:

For U.S. Postal Service delivery:

Department of Human Services  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
5 Commerce Way  
PO Box 362  
Hamilton, NJ 08691

OR

For private delivery vendor such as UPS or FedEx:

Alicia Meyer, RFP Coordinator  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
5 Commerce Way, Suite 100  
Hamilton, NJ 08691

The bidder may mail or hand deliver its proposal, however, DMHAS is not responsible for items mailed but not received by the due date. Note that U.S. Postal Service two-day priority mail delivery to the post office box listed above may result in the bidder's proposal not arriving timely and, therefore, being deemed ineligible for RFP evaluation. The bidder will not be notified that its proposal has been received. The State will not accept facsimile transmission of proposals.

In addition to the required hard copies, the bidder must also submit its proposal (including budget, budget notes, and appendices) electronically by the deadline using a file transfer protocol site. Please email [MH.upload@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:MH.upload@dhs.nj.gov) as soon as you determine that you will be submitting a proposal, but no later than one week before the proposal is due, in order to receive unique login credentials to upload your proposal to the FTP site. Email requests for login credentials must include the individual's first name, last name, email address and name of agency/provider.

## **IX. Review of Proposals**

There will be a review process for all timely submitted proposals. DMHAS will convene a review committee of public employees to conduct a review of each proposal accepted for review. The bidder must obtain a minimum score of 70 points out of 100 points for the proposal narrative and budget sections in order to be considered eligible for funding.

DMHAS will award up to 20 points for fiscal viability, using a standardized scoring rubric based on the audit, which will be added to the average score given to the proposal from the review committee. Thus, the maximum points any proposal can receive is 120 points, which includes the combined score from the proposal narrative and budget as well as fiscal viability. Proposals that do not score the minimum 70 points will be deemed ineligible for award and are not considered for fiscal viability.

In addition, 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.

Contract award recommendations will be based on such factors as the proposal scope, quality and appropriateness, bidder history and experience, as well as budget reasonableness. The review committee will look for evidence of cultural competence in each section of the narrative. The review committee may choose to visit a bidder's existing program(s), invite a bidder for interview, and/or review any programmatic or fiscal documents in the possession of DMHAS. The bidder is advised that the contract award may be conditional upon final contract and budget negotiation.

DMHAS reserves the right to reject any and all proposals when circumstances indicate that it is in its best interest to do so. DMHAS' best interests in this context include, but are not limited to, loss of funding, inability of the bidder(s) to provide adequate services, an indication of misrepresentation of information and/or non-compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations, existing DHS contracts, and procedures set forth in DHS Policy Circular P1.04

(<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ocpm/home/resources/manuals/index.html>).

DMHAS will notify all bidders of contract awards, contingent upon the satisfactory final negotiation of a contract, by December 28, 2020.

## **X. Appeal of Award Decisions**

An appeal of any award decision may be made only by a respondent to this RFP. All appeals must be made in writing and be received by DMHAS at the address below no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 5, 2021. The written appeal must clearly set forth the basis for the appeal.

Appeal correspondence should be addressed to:

Valerie Mielke, Assistant Commissioner  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
5 Commerce Way  
PO Box 362  
Hamilton, NJ 08691  
Fax number: (609) 341-2302

Or via email: [alicia.meyer@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:alicia.meyer@dhs.nj.gov)

Please note that all costs incurred in connection with appeals of DMHAS decisions are considered unallowable cost for the purpose of DMHAS contract funding.

DMHAS will review all appeals and render a final decision by January 12, 2021. Contract award(s) will not be considered final until all timely filed appeals have been reviewed and final decisions rendered.

## **XI. Post Award Required Documentation**

Upon final contract award announcement, the successful bidder(s) must be prepared to submit (if not already on file), one (1) original signed document for those requiring a signature or copy of the following documentation (unless noted otherwise) in order to process the contract in a timely manner, as well as any other contract documents required by DHS/DMHAS.

1. Most recent IRS Form 990 or IRS Form 1120, and Pension Form 5500 (if applicable) (submit two [2] copies);
2. Copy of the Annual Report-Charitable Organization (for information visit: [http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/dcr/programs/ann\\_rpt.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/dcr/programs/ann_rpt.shtml));
3. A list of all current contracts and grants as well as those for which the bidder has applied for from any Federal, state, local government or private agency during the contract term proposed herein, including awarding agency name, amount, period of performance, and purpose of the contract/grant, as well as a contact name for each award and the phone number;
4. Proof of Insurance naming the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, PO Box 362, Hamilton, NJ 08691 as an additional insured;

5. Board Resolution identifying the authorized staff and signatories for contract actions on behalf of the bidder;
6. Current Agency By-laws;
7. Current Personnel Manual or Employee Handbook;
8. Copy of Lease or Mortgage;
9. Certificate of Incorporation;
10. Co-occurring policies and procedures;
11. Policies regarding the use of medications, if applicable;
12. Policies regarding Recovery Support, specifically peer support services;
13. Conflict of Interest Policy;
14. Affirmative Action Policy;
15. Affirmative Action Certificate of Employee Information Report, newly completed AA 302 form, or a copy of Federal Letter of Approval verifying operation under a federally approved or sanctioned Affirmative Action program. (AA Certificate must be submitted within 60 days of submitting completed AA302 form to Office of Contract Compliance);
16. A copy of all applicable licenses;
17. Local Certificates of Occupancy;
18. Current State of New Jersey Business Registration;
19. Procurement Policy;
20. Current equipment inventory of items purchased with DHS funds (Note: the inventory shall include: a description of the item [make, model], a State identifying number or code, original date of purchase, purchase price, date of receipt, location at the Provider Agency, person(s) assigned to the equipment, etc.);
21. All subcontracts or consultant agreements, related to the DHS contract, signed and dated by both parties;
22. Business Associate Agreement (BAA) for Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act of 1996 compliance, if applicable, signed and dated;
23. Updated single audit report (A133) or certified statements, if differs from one submitted with proposal;
24. Business Registration (online inquiry to obtain a copy at [https://www1.state.nj.us/TYTR\\_BRC/jsp/BRCLoginJsp.jsp](https://www1.state.nj.us/TYTR_BRC/jsp/BRCLoginJsp.jsp); for an entity doing business with the State for the first time, see <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue>);
25. Source Disclosure (EO129) ([www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml)); and
26. Chapter 51 Pay-to-Play Certification ([www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml)).

## **XII. Attachments**



**Attachment A – Proposal Cover Sheet**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Received

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Proposal Cover Sheet**

Name of RFP: Outpatient Services for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Incorporated Name of Bidder: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Profit \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Profit \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital-Based \_\_\_\_\_

Federal ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Charities Reg. Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Bidder: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total dollar amount requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year End: \_\_\_\_\_

Funding Period: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of unduplicated consumers to be served: \_\_\_\_\_

County in which services are to be provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of services by program name and level of service to be provided:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Authorization: Chief Executive Officer (printed name): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment B – Addendum to RFP for Social Service and Training Contracts**

### **STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **ADDENDUM TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AND TRAINING CONTRACTS**

Executive Order No. 189 establishes the expected standard of responsibility for all parties that enter into a contract with the State of New Jersey. All such parties must meet a standard of responsibility that assures the State and its citizens that such parties will compete and perform honestly in their dealings with the State and avoid conflicts of interest.

As used in this document, "provider agency" or "provider" means any person, firm, corporation, or other entity or representative or employee thereof that offers or proposes to provide goods or services to or performs any contract for the Department of Human Services.

In compliance with Paragraph 3 of Executive Order No. 189, no provider agency shall pay, offer to pay, or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13b and e, in the Department of the Treasury or any other agency with which such provider agency transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13i, of any such officer or employee, or any partnership, firm, or corporation with which they are employed or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13g.

The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from any provider agency shall be reported in writing forthwith by the provider agency to the Attorney General and the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.

No provider agency may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such provider agency to, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to any State agency or any instrumentality thereof, or with any person, firm or entity with which he is employed or associated or in which he has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13g. Any relationships subject to this provision shall be reported in writing forthwith to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actuality or appearance of a conflict of interest.

No provider agency shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee in his official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said officer or employee.

No provider agency shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the provider agency or any other person.

The provisions cited above shall not be construed to prohibit a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from receiving gifts from or contracting with provider agencies under the same terms and conditions as are offered or made available to members of the general public subject to any guidelines the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards may promulgate.

## **Attachment C – Statement of Assurances**

### **Department of Human Services Statement of Assurances**

As the duly authorized Chief Executive Officer/Administrator, I am aware that submission to the Department of Human Services of the accompanying application constitutes the creation of a public document that may be made available upon request at the completion of the RFP process. This may include the application, budget, and list of applicants (bidder's list). In addition, I certify that the applicant:

- Has legal authority to apply for the funds made available under the requirements of the RFP, and has the institutional, managerial and financial capacity (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal/State share of project costs, as appropriate) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
- Will give the New Jersey Department of Human Services, or its authorized representatives, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Will give proper notice to the independent auditor that DHS will rely upon the fiscal year end audit report to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract.
- Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain. This means that the applicant did not have any involvement in the preparation of the RFP, including development of specifications, requirements, statement of works, or the evaluation of the RFP applications/bids.
- Will comply with all federal and State statutes and regulations relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: 1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352; 34 CFR Part 100) which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin; 2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR Part 104), which prohibits discrimination based on handicaps and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.; 3) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq.; 45 CFR part 90), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; 4) P.L. 2975, Chapter 127, of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et. seq.) and associated executive orders pertaining to affirmative action and non-discrimination on public contracts; 5) Federal Equal Employment Opportunities Act; and 6) Affirmative Action Requirements of PL 1975 c. 127 (NJAC 17:27).
- Will comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.
- Will comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. 276a-276a-5 (29 CFR 5.5) and the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.27 et seq. and all regulations pertaining thereto.
- Is in compliance, for all contracts in excess of \$100,000, with the Byrd Anti-Lobbying amendment, incorporated at Title 31 U.S.C. 1352. This certification extends to all lower tier subcontracts as well.

- Has included a statement of explanation regarding any and all involvement in any litigation, criminal or civil.
- Has signed the certification in compliance with federal Executive Orders 12549 and 12689 and State Executive Order 34 and is not presently debarred, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded. The applicant will have signed certifications on file for all subcontracted funds.
- Understands that this provider agency is an independent, private employer with all the rights and obligations of such, and is not a political subdivision of the Department of Human Services.
- Understands that unresolved monies owed the Department and/or the State of New Jersey may preclude the receipt of this award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: CEO or equivalent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name and Title

6/97

**Attachment D - Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE SIGNING THIS CERTIFICATION. THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CERTIFICATION.

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by a Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 29 CFR Part 98, Section 98.510.

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion  
Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of facts upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.