

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

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

**Community Psychiatry Residency
Training Initiative – 4 Positions**

May 31, 2023

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

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I. Purpose and Intent

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is issuing a Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) to all fully accredited psychiatry residency programs in New Jersey that are currently providing four years of training in adult psychiatry (the Program). This RLI will grant programs funding for new adult psychiatry residency positions using funding that was not awarded pursuant to a prior RLI that was published in mid-January 2023. Through this RLI, adult psychiatric residency programs can apply through a Letter of Interest (LOI) for funding to support either one or two additional four-year positions in their programs.

The purpose of the Program is to:

1. Address the shortage of psychiatrists in New Jersey by increasing the number of new adult psychiatry residency positions in the New Jersey Adult Psychiatry Residency programs.
2. Ensure that new State of New Jersey funded psychiatry residency training positions provide residents with extensive experience in the public behavioral health system working with individuals in the community who have serious mental illness or a serious mental illness with a co-occurring behavioral health condition such as substance use disorder, intellectual disability or developmental disability.
3. Encourage recruitment of qualified candidates for residency training who are likely to practice psychiatry in New Jersey after graduation.
4. Support the psychiatric residency programs with supplemental funding to support faculty to provide supervision and mentorship of the psychiatry residents.

Psychiatry Residency Programs will:

- Obtain any needed approvals from partnering hospitals and affiliated programs that will support and maintain the new positions that place emphasis on community psychiatry.
- Obtain any needed certifications and approvals from residency accrediting bodies for the additional positions.
- Begin recruiting resident candidate(s) for the new residency positions who will begin their Post-Graduate Year (PGY) 1 in July, 2023.
- Institute a Community Psychiatry Training track for new residents during PGY 2-4 that meets the requirements of this RLI.
- Provide quarterly information on key requirements of the contract with DHS/DMHAS through an online application developed by the State of New Jersey.

DMHAS will:

- Provide the sum of up to \$400,000 to support teach one (1) four-year position in residency program that is selected for funding.
- Provide additional fund awards in amounts of \$32,727 to the residency programs for each newly funded psychiatric resident position; this supplemental funding will support dedicated faculty providing supervision and mentorship of the residents.
- Monitor residency program efforts to recruit and maintain qualified candidates, and to provide extensive training experiences for residents in non-hospital, community based settings in the public sector.
- Work with psychiatry residency programs to support efforts to implement a Community Psychiatry track and assist with retaining program graduates to work in community- based settings in New Jersey.

II. The RLI timeline

The RLI timeline is anticipated as follows:

May 31, 2023	Release of RLI
June 6, 2023	Deadline for receipt of LOI no later than 4:00 pm ET
June 9, 2023	Announcement of selected residency programs
June 12, 2023	Program Start Date

III. Background

The shortage of psychiatrists has been a national and state problem. One major cause is that the number of available residency positions to train psychiatrists has been relatively static, despite the availability of qualified candidates. New Jersey psychiatry residency programs report having significantly more qualified candidates than the number of residency positions available and that they are able to train more individuals if those positions are funded. To support their capacity for training psychiatrists, the New Jersey legislature had included \$4 million for 10 additional four-year positions in psychiatry residencies in the State of New Jersey Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 budget, which has since been awarded to the ten (10) psychiatry residencies existing at that time. These programs now have psychiatry residents in their first year classes, and these resident positions will be supported through four years of training.

In its SFY23 budget, the New Jersey legislature committed an additional \$8 million funding to support two additional positions in each of the ten (10) psychiatry residency programs in the State of New Jersey. The legislative funding included additional funds to support administrative components of these training programs. An RLI with funding for the new positions was published in mid-January 2023, but not all of the available funding was awarded in this process. This unused funding is now being made available for psychiatry residency programs that are capable of adding one or two additional four-year residency

positions for those beginning PGY1 in July 2023.

DHS and DMHAS remain committed to supporting the psychiatry residency programs in the State of New Jersey so that the psychiatry workforce will be meet future demands for services. The greatest shortage of psychiatrists and the most urgent unmet needs will continue to exist in community based clinics and agencies serving individuals with serious mental illness. Thus, DHS/DMHAS continues to require residency programs to enhance and to expand the community psychiatry training experience of their residents with this additional funding. Community psychiatry tracks offer enhanced training to residents interested in working in the public sector. Many individuals graduating medical school are looking for opportunities to work with vulnerable populations, and they may, in fact, be attracted to programs offering rotations in community psychiatry programs. Although all psychiatric residences offer some community experience, few programs currently offer a community psychiatry track despite the need for psychiatrists in these settings (Reardon et al., Community Mental Health Journal, 2014).

The Community Psychiatry track must be made available for residents in funded positions in their PGY 2-4. The track will include a didactic program, reading list, and relevant rotations in non-hospital, community-based behavioral health programs for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, severe substance use disorders, intellectual/developmental disabilities with behavioral issues, and other underserved and vulnerable populations. The sites available for rotations can include outpatient mental health clinics, programs of assertive community treatment, substance use treatment programs, residential housing and treatment programs, and shelters. These rotations shall be open to all of the residents in the programs, not only to those in the New Jersey State funded positions.

In January 2023, DMHAS awarded funding to support eighteen (18) new psychiatry residency positions. The eighteen (18) new psychiatry residency funded positions included two (2) positions at nine (9) New Jersey Adult Psychiatry Residency programs.

IV. Funding Availability

Total funding for the New Jersey Adult Psychiatry Residency Programs – 4 Positions RLI will be in the amount up to \$1,600,000 (\$100,000 per position per year) for each program to cover the costs of four years of training (PGY1 - PGY4) for the new positions.

The New Jersey Adult Psychiatry programs that are selected for funding will be awarded in the amount of up to \$400,000 (\$100,000 per position per year) for each new residency position awarded. Programs can apply for funding for up to two (2) new positions. Selected programs will also receive a payment of \$32,727 for each position awarded to support the supervision and mentorship activities for each residency position that is awarded.

New Jersey based psychiatry programs eligible to respond to this RLI are competing for up to 2 (two) awards in their respective programs. DMHAS is awarding funding up to 4 (four) new adult psychiatry residency positions in total with this RLI.

V. Application and Proposal Requirements

All New Jersey based adult psychiatry residency programs are eligible to respond to this RLI.

The LOI must indicate that the residency program will fully meet accreditation requirements to add the new positions and that it will provide a community training track and support the residents through the four years of their training.

The LOI must be written in 12-point Times New Roman font and be no longer than four (4) pages, not including attachments. The letter must be double-spaced with one-inch margins and numbered. Your letter must describe in the following order:

1. Describe how your efforts to recruit candidates for new residency positions will ensure that these are available to be filled in the PGY1 class that starts in July 2023. (10%)
2. Describe whether you foresee any obstacles to obtaining any needed approvals from partnering hospitals and affiliated programs, as well as from the ACGME and other accrediting bodies, that will hinder your program from filling the new positions or the development of a positions that community psychiatry track for the residents. If any such obstacles are present, describe how the obstacles will be addressed. (10%)
3. Describe how the psychiatric residency positions will be supported financially by your institution(s), including with supplemental funding to support faculty to provide supervision and mentorship of the psychiatry residents. (25%)
4. Describe how will you encourage recruitment of qualified candidates for residency training who are likely to practice psychiatry in New Jersey after graduation. Include details about your record of attracting candidates who live in the State of New Jersey or have graduated from New Jersey medical schools, as well as any other information about your residents' post-residency employment and practice in New Jersey. (25%)
5. Describe how you program will provide residents with extensive experience in the public behavioral health system working with individuals in the community who have serious mental illness and/or a co-occurring behavioral health conditions, such as substance use disorder, intellectual disability or developmental disability. Include specific details about the program's Community Psychiatry Training track for new residents during PGY 2-4 that meets the requirements in the RLI. (30%)

VI. Submission Instructions

DMHAS assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred in the preparation and submittal of the LOI.

In addition to the LOI, all submissions must include the following:

A completed Attachment A – LOI Cover Sheet, as provided in this RLI.

DMHAS will select residency programs based on the responses to the information outlined in Section IV of this RLI.

All LOI must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm ET on June 6, 2023, by emailing to: Carol Pitonyak, Executive Assistant, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services carol.pitonyak@dhs.nj.gov.

DMHAS will notify selected respondents by June 9, 2023 after which time, DMHAS will contact the person indicated as the Agency Contact on the Proposal Cover Sheet to begin work on the Program.

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

Name of RLI: **Community Psychiatry Residency Training Initiative – 4 Positions**

Incorporated Name of Bidder: _____

Type: Public _____ Profit _____ Non-Profit _____

Address of Participating Agency: _____

Program Administrator Name and Title _____

Phone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

Agency Contact Person Name and Title: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

Authorization: Program Administrator (printed name): _____

Signature: _____