

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Availability of Funds

2025 Opt for Help and Hope (OFHH) Grant Program

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, the Department of Law and Public Safety (Department or LPS) announces the availability of the following non-competitive awards for the 2025 Opt for Help and Hope Grant Program, which are being administered by the Division of Administration (DOA) and the Office of Alternative and Community Responses (OACR).

- a) **Name of the Program:** Opt for Help and Hope (OFHH). This program is funded by the national settlement agreed upon by Publicis Health, LLC and the Department pursuant to the Final Consent Judgment signed on January 30, 2024.¹
- b) **Purpose:** The purpose of OFHH is to offer early intervention for defendants whose offenses are non-violent, help establish additional pathways to recovery, and minimize the deleterious impact that convictions can have on the stability needed to sustain recovery. This funding will allow for continuation of the OFHH pilot programs (hereinafter referred to as “pilot program” or “current program”) initially funded in 2023 as the County Prosecutor’s Offices (CPOs) or the programs attempt to identify sustainable continuation funding.

This funding requires that the CPO either (1) continue its currently operating OFHH program and/or (2) implement a new OFHH program in a different municipal court within the county after considering the need and ensuring comparable services are not already being offered.

Each CPO will be responsible for overseeing the program and must establish a process for how it will work with the municipal prosecutor and/or municipal court staff to determine eligibility and compliance. The CPO must utilize peer recovery specialists to provide linkage to care and recovery support and a community-based treatment provider (CBTP) that is able to clinically assess individuals and provide necessary treatment and/or services. Contract-eligible CBTPs must be able to initiate or have agreements to refer to other providers who can initiate Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), including buprenorphine.

¹ A copy of the Final Settlement Judgement may be found at:
https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases24/2024-0201_Publicis-Consent-Judgment.pdf

The sites that received funding through the 2023 Opt for Help and Hope Grant Program were identified in consultation with the New Jersey Judiciary and Administrative Office of the Courts, and were as follows:

- (1) Atlantic County Regional Court
- (2) Pemberton Municipal Court
- (3) East Orange Municipal Court
- (4) Hamilton Township Municipal Court
- (5) Paterson City Municipal Court
- (6) Franklin Township Municipal Court

Based upon the above, the following CPOs have been identified as recipients for the 2025 Opt for Help and Hope Grant Program funds:

- (1) Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office
- (2) Burlington County Prosecutor's Office
- (3) Essex County Prosecutor's Office
- (4) Mercer County Prosecutor's Office
- (5) Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
- (6) Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

Available Funding: Under the 2025 Opt for Help and Hope (OFHH) Grant Program, \$900,000 in formula grant funding will be offered to six identified County Prosecutor's Offices (CPOs) to continue standardized prosecutor-led diversion programs, treatment assessments, and recovery support in specified municipal courts.

The base funding allocation for each CPO is \$150,000. If not all eligible CPOs participate, the remaining available funding will be divided among participating CPOs using a formula determined by OACR.

The funding is for a 2-year period from March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2027. For new locations, the municipal court program must be operational for at least 18 months following a planning and development phase.

c) Organizations that may apply for funding under this program: County Prosecutor's Offices identified in (b) above.

d) Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding: Applicants must be in good standing with all State and federal agencies with which they have had grant or contractual relationships. Where appropriate, all applicants must hold current professional and State licenses and certifications.

LPS reserves the right to decline any and all applicants who cannot demonstrate proof of compliance with program requirements.

To be considered for funding, an eligible applicant must file a completed application, in accordance with the requirements of the program, by the submission deadline. The State of New Jersey, Office of Alternative and Community Responses, may also take into account

an applicant's past performance meeting goals, objectives, and reporting requirement deadlines, as well as reimbursement request accuracy.

e) Procedures for Eligible Organizations to Apply:

Eligible applicants will receive application packages from the OACR.

Eligible recipients of the non-competitive 2025 OFHH Grant Program funds will receive application guidelines and all required application forms, via e-mail, that must be completed and submitted by the established due date.

An applicant that is designated as a high-risk grantee by LPS is to submit a separate attachment to its application, information that LPS will use, among other pertinent information, to determine whether it will consider or select the application for an award under this solicitation. The file should be named "LPS High-Risk Grantee Applicant Disclosure and Justification."

Upon approval of project narrative and budget, applicants will receive award documents for approval and signature. Recipients must comply with programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements for approval and/or reimbursement of costs incurred during the project period.

Applications must be emailed to the following email address: ocrgrants@njoag.gov. Place your agency name and "2025 Opt for Help and Hope" in the subject line.

Applications that do not comply with the requirements of this Notice of Availability of Funds or the Program Administration and Funding Guidelines may not be considered. The Division of Administration reserves the right to decline any and all applications for funding and to award grants in amounts that may be other than requested. Agencies previously funded are not guaranteed continued funding or funding at previous levels.

The submitted application may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

f) Address: Applications must be submitted by email. Please submit applications to the following email address: ocrgrants@njoag.gov

For reference only, the address of the office receiving the applications:
Director Tiffany Wilson, Office of Alternative and Community Responses
Department of Law & Public Safety
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

g) Deadline by which applications must be submitted: Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2025. Applications must be emailed to ocrgrants@njoag.gov. Do not mail applications to the above address, as applications may only be submitted and received via email.

Any eligible CPOs declining to apply for the available funding are encouraged to notify DOA and OACR as soon as possible of their declination of the funding via email to oacrgrants@njoag.gov.

- h) Date by which notices shall be sent of approval or disapproval of applications:** Award notifications will be made on or about May 15, 2025.

Please note that funding allocations and individual award amounts are subject to change. Recipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly dependent upon the availability to the Department of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue or such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of the Department to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by the Department or an event of default under a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from the Department beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by the Department to expend funds beyond the termination date set forth in a grant agreement.