

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

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

Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) at Licensed SUD Treatment Agencies

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: Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) at Licensed SUD Treatment Agencies

Purpose: This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for legal and navigation services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD). Services will help address legal and social issues that present as barriers to accessing needed services (medical, behavioral health, housing, insurance, entitlements, etc.) for individuals with a SUD and to reduce the burden of outstanding legal issues that negatively impact an individual's recovery process and ability to successfully live in the community of their choosing. The goal is to avoid incarceration whenever safely possible and to address any social inequities from a legal perspective. DMHAS plans to fund medical legal partnerships throughout the state.

A medical-legal partnership (MLP) is a collaboration between health care providers and legal personnel (attorneys and legal navigators) to address social needs that impact health. MLPs aim to improve health equity by integrating legal services into health care settings. MLPs can help with a variety of legal needs, including access to government programs, housing, employment, immigration, and family law matters. MLPs can improve patient health outcomes in a number of ways, including reducing stress, improving mental health, improving adherence to medical treatment, removing barriers to health care for low-income families, and Increasing access to stable housing and other social supports.¹

The model in this RFP is an MLP where both services are delivered by one agency. Full-time attorneys along with navigators (can be an individual with lived experience) work as an integrated part of the treatment team when it is identified that there are legal and/or social issues that require the support of an attorney. In this model, the attorney can serve as an advocate or counsel in civil and municipal criminal matters.

¹ Tobin-Tyler, E. and Teitelbaum, J. B., Medical-Legal Partnership: A Powerful Tool for Public Health and Health Justice. Public Health Rep. 2019 Jan 15;134(2):201–205.

Attorneys will not serve as primary counsel in Superior Court matters but may liaison with the public defender or the individual's private counsel to assist in the individual's case. Navigators will provide one-to-one assistance to individuals to connect them to community resources and assist with navigating legal resources and needs. Similar to the MLP, this RFP seeks to award contracts to licensed SUD treatment agencies that will hire an attorney and navigator to support eligible individuals. These individuals must have an SUD, and are either currently using substances or in their recovery. Individuals served must be enrolled in SUD treatment. No individual shall be denied full access to legal or navigation services due to the use of legitimately prescribed medications or actively using illicit or other drugs.

This RFP is funded with settlement payments from major nationwide litigation and settlements that involve the opioid industry. Total annualized funding is \$2,750,000, subject to New Jersey's Opioid Settlement State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making seven (7) awards of up to \$392,857 each.

Available Funding Amount: Total annualized funding is \$2,750,000, subject to New Jersey's Opioid Settlement State appropriations.

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

1. The bidder may be a non-profit or for-profit entity or governmental entity;
2. The bidder must be licensed to provide SUD treatment by the Department of Health (DOH), Division Certificate of Need and Licensing, Behavioral Health.
3. 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 proposal submission;
4. 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;
5. The bidder must not appear on the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report² or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds;
6. Pursuant to DHS Contract Policy and Information Manual Policy Circular 8.05, the bidder shall not have a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict, between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. Persons in a position of trust include Provider Agency staff members, officers and Governing Board Members. A bidder must have written Conflict of Interest policies and procedures that satisfy the requirements of P8.05, thereby ensuring that paid Board members do not participate in transactions except as expressly provided in the P8.05 circular; and
7. 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 Division of

² <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/debarment/>

Revenue. This statutory requirement does not apply to non-profit organizations, private colleges and universities, or state and municipal agencies.

Proposal Procedure: Effective April 30, 2025, 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 June 11, 2025.

3/24/25

Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

Date