

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

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

#### Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelters

**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:** Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelters

**Purpose:** 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 increase access to buprenorphine and other ancillary services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD) through current programming available at homeless shelters. These providers will develop the capacity to provide medication and support services for individuals who reside or drop in at homeless shelters. The intent of the program is to provide low threshold medication services to individuals with a SUD who present in these settings.<sup>1</sup>

The successful bidder to this RFP will initiate medication for SUD and maintain the individual on that medication or transition the individual to a community provider, including, but not limited to: an Office Based Addictions Treatment (OBAT) provider or licensed treatment provider that can administer buprenorphine and other medications for SUD, as well as deliver the appropriate level of counseling, or other appropriate support service. There will be no gaps in medication, caused by the provider or providers, for individuals served in this program. It is expected that providers will use funds for all of the following: (1) identify and designate a Champion within the homeless shelter who will lead the shelter's efforts to provide medication for SUD; (2) initiate same-day medications; (3) contract or employ staff with the credentials to prescribe medications; (4) contract or employ case/care managers, and peers, to connect and engage patients in treatment and social services and to assist patients with care transitions; (5) create a welcoming and non-stigmatizing atmosphere for individuals seeking medications; (6) provide naloxone as an overdose prevention medication, (7) connect individuals to an affiliated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for the treatment of physical and mental health concerns and chronic pain; and (8) implement harm reductions strategies and interventions to address SUDs, primarily opioid use disorder (OUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD).

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<sup>1</sup> Low threshold medication services create access to care by removing traditional barriers such as requirements for abstinence or ongoing counseling, to individuals who are at high risk.

New Jersey has designated two Centers of Excellence (COE) in the treatment of SUDs, one at Rowan University/Cooper Medical School in Camden, New Jersey and another located at Rutgers University Medical School in Newark, NJ. The COEs offer free training, mentoring and telephonic assistance to prescribers or individuals who are becoming certified to offer medications that treat individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD). These services will be available to assist the successful bidder.

This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. Total annualized funding for this RFP is \$2,975,000 subject to federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to seven (7) awards of up to \$425,000 each.

**Available Funding Amount:** Total funding for this initiative is \$2,975,000 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 homeless shelter with a commitment to providing medication and support to individuals with an SUD;
- The bidder must be a non-profit or governmental entity;
- 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.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml> 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 September 23, 2022, 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. EST on October 21, 2022.

**Notification Date:** Bidders will be notified on or before November 18, 2022.

September 19, 2022

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Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

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Date