



## Office of Mental Health

### Safe Options Support (SOS) Program: CTI 4 Upstate Teams Q and A List

1. There are two different dates for the Safer Option Support (SOS) Program: CTI 4 Upstate Teams request for proposal due date. The proposal request list the due dates (page 5) as 9/11/23 and on the Office of Mental Health website lists the request for proposal due date is listed as 9/28/23. Which is the correct date to submit the proposal?

ANSWER – The date on the OMH website is incorrect and will be corrected. The due date is 9/11/2023.

2. Does a non-profit organization applying for this grant need to have an office in the geographic region for which they are applying?

ANSWER – An office in the geographic region is not required, however applicants should have a plan for how they will access private, confidential space to meet with recipients when needed.

3. Does OMH condone an approach in which all county governments in a region have informed local providers and likely applicants that the counties will provide a letter of support for only ONE application and that application must (1) partner with specifically identified community based organizations; (2) pay dues and execute an MOU to join the local Homeless & Housing Coalition; (3) utilize a specific HMIS data base requiring dual data entry; (4) submit the grant narrative to the County by 9/6/23, among other things?

ANSWER – Letters of support from Local Government Units are not required to apply for this funding opportunity.

4. Is the \$60,000 additional to the annual amount or already included in the annual amount?

ANSWER – The \$60,000 is already included in the annual budget.

5. Will OMH provide CTI training to agencies selected to provide the service? If so, will there be a learning community through CPI?

ANSWER – The NYC Safe Option Support Hub will be offering opportunities for new SOS providers to participate in CTI Training. OMH will also be coordinating a Learning Community in partnership with the SOS Hub, which will include all SOS Teams across NYS.

6. One year into housing is a nearly impossible task for chronic street homeless persons especially with SPMI or MICA diagnoses --- when you say housing is transitional housing or transitional residences or shelter, stabilization housing acceptable?

ANSWER – Individuals enrolled in SOS services may access transitional housing or temporary shelter placement, however SOS Teams are expected to assist recipients in achieving long-term or permanent housing. New housing resources are being developed specifically for individuals enrolled in SOS services to assist the SOS Teams in achieving this goal.

7. Will there be technical assistance offered for start up?

ANSWER – OMH will be providing support throughout the implementation process, including assistance with data reporting and interoperability, and on an ongoing basis through the SOS Learning Community.

8. Is there a minimum amount of visits that have to occur per month?

ANSWER – There is no minimum number of visits required per month. Frequency and duration of visits will vary based upon CTI phase, individual level of need, and personal preference. SOS Teams should be meeting with recipients more regularly in the early phases of CTI and reducing frequency as individuals are nearing discharge.

9. What will be the standard case load size for a clinician, care manager and peer?

ANSWER – SOS Teams are expected to enroll a minimum of 70 individuals per year. Caseload sizes may vary amongst team members based upon staff expertise, acuity level of enrolled members, and geographic coverage areas. Each SOS provider should take these variables into consideration when working with their SOS Team to determine caseload sizes.

10. There is a supportive housing shortage in NYS as hard as the state is trying to increase units, so will CTI program recipients be given priority in ESHI housing or other HHAP housing?

ANSWER – Individuals experiencing homelessness are already a priority population for OMH housing. Additionally, an RFP was recently issued for scattered site supportive housing that is exclusively available to SOS and ACT recipients who are unhoused.

11. The duration of visits seem to also be long. Where are those visits expected to take place prior to placement?

ANSWER – Visits should occur wherever the recipient is located and chooses to receive services. This may include shelter sites, community space, provider office space, or apartment/housing settings.