



## Office of Mental Health

### School Based MH Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA Questions and Answers

1. We are an OMH-licensed MHOTRS/clinic but do not yet serve children. We are in the process of putting together the application for children's services and wondering if we need to have that in place prior to submitting the grant application for this RFA?

ANSWER – Eligible applicants of the School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA must have an existing OMH-licensed MHOTRS/clinic serving children/adolescents. The MHOTRS/clinic program must already be authorized to serve children/adolescents and be in good standing at the time of the application.

2. A request for an edit to the RFP – for equity and parity to rural school satellites. Please consider minor edit to the RFP to include: on-time funding of up to \$45K for active rural school-based MHOTRS/Clinic satellites to stabilize workforce limitations or expand days/hours. The data shows rural high-risk school-based active satellites could use this one-time funding due to the disparity in available workforce resources (parity) and rural communities also experience a unique high demand in children's mental health needs – disproportionate to population size in comparison to higher population counties (equity).

ANSWER – The School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA is limited to the creation of a new school-based satellites and for MHOTRS/clinics serving children/adolescents who have submitted a PAR satellite application or been recently issued a satellite MHOTRS/clinic Operating Certificate for a new school based mental health MHOTRS/clinic satellite location(s) which opened in the 2022-2023 school year OR is projected to start in the 2023/2024 school year. Please continue to monitor the NYS Office of Mental Health website for future procurement opportunities that may address workforce development: [New York State Office of Mental Health Request for Proposals \(RFP\) and Request for Information \(RFI\) \(ny.gov\)](#).

3. Would a new clinic be considered if it is newly licensed and about to open, and received a \$25,000 start-up grant from OMH last year as well?

ANSWER – The School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA applies to the creation of a new school-based satellites and for MHOTRS/clinics serving children/adolescents who have submitted a PAR satellite application or been recently issued a satellite MHOTRS/clinic Operating Certificate for a new school based mental health MHOTRS/clinic satellite location(s) which opened in the 2022-2023 school year OR is projected to start in the 2023/2024 school year. Please note, sites that received Mental Health Block Grant School-Based Mental Health Clinic Services for Children/Youth Supporting Growth: Access and Capacity Enhancement Grant (December 2021) are not eligible for funding for that site from the School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA. These providers may apply for funding for a different site.

4. Will OMH consider proposals that aim to establish OMH-licensed clinics in private schools? Or is this award limited to public schools?

ANSWER – The School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA applies to the establishment of a school-based satellite in New York State schools, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, including public, charter, and private schools. The release of funding may be further subject to the submission and approval of a EZ Prior Application Review (PAR) application, as necessary.

5. We are a nonprofit organization subcontracting with another nonprofit that is a licensed Article 31 provider. As the subcontractor nonprofit, we will operate under the nonprofit partner's Article 31 to provide direct school-based clinical services. We presently have pending PAR applications to provide these school-based clinical services under the nonprofit's partner Article 31. Can we, as the subcontractor, providing the direct clinical services, apply for this grant under our own organization?

ANSWER – Eligible applicants of the School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA must have an existing OMH-licensed MHOTRS/clinic serving children/adolescents. The MHOTRS/clinic program must already be authorized to serve children/adolescents and be in good standing at the time of the application.

6. If we received \$25K in funding last year for 8 of our school-based clinics established in the 22-23 school year, are we eligible to apply for an additional \$20K in funding if they qualify as being in one of the “high needs school districts” on the list attached to the opportunity?

ANSWER – Sites that received Mental Health Block Grant School-Based Mental Health Clinic Services for Children/Youth Supporting Growth: Access and Capacity Enhancement Grant (December 2021) are not eligible for funding for that site from the School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA. These providers may apply for funding for a different site.

7. May we submit proposals for two satellites of a clinic that is pending E-Z PAR approval? We have close relationships with schools in high-needs districts and hope to apply to provide clinic services for them on-site.

ANSWER – The School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA applies to the creation of a new school-based satellites and for MHOTRS/clinics serving children/adolescents who have submitted a PAR satellite application or been recently issued a satellite MHOTRS/clinic Operating Certificate for a new school based mental health MHOTRS/clinic satellite location(s) which opened in the 2022-2023 school year OR is projected to start in the 2023/2024 school year. An EZ-PAR is not required to be submitted prior to the RFA application for eligibility however, the release of funding may be further subject to the submission and approval of a EZ PAR application, as necessary.

8. We serve southern Erie, northern Allegany and Cattaraugus and western Wyoming counties. The NYSERDA map to which we refer shows no blue-colored areas (disadvantaged communities) within our service area. It may be that the Clinical Expansion funding uses a broader definition that could be applied to other areas. The question becomes what communities would be eligible for this funding?

ANSWER – A list of High Needs Districts can be found in Grants Gateway as a reference document in the Pre Submission Upload page.

9. Where is the Pre-Submission Upload page for this list?

ANSWER – it is a tab/component available on Grants Gateway when accessing the opportunity as well as working on the application.

10. Why wasn't the list included in the RFA?

ANSWER – The Grants Gateway is the platform for posting the opportunity and accessing the applicable RFP/RFA documents.

11. Will this email be answered individually or will all questions and answers be posted somewhere...and if so, where?

ANSWER – No questions are responded to individually. The list of Q&As will post on OMH's website where the RFA is posted.

12. Does the definition of "high needs" school districts of 50% classified as disadvantaged apply to both new and already established clinics? For example, if a new part-time satellite clinic was established last year, can the new funding be used to make the satellite full-time even if the school has less than 50% of the students being classified as disadvantaged?

ANSWER – The additional funding for satellites opened in high needs districts applies to the creation of a new school-based satellites and for MHOTRS/clinics serving children/adolescents who have submitted a PAR satellite application or been recently issued a satellite MHOTRS/clinic Operating Certificate for a new school based mental health MHOTRS/clinic satellite location(s)

which opened in the 2022-2023 school year OR is projected to start in the 2023/2024 school year. The list of high needs districts eligible for additional funding can be found on Grants Gateway.

13. We currently have two funded sites that were awarded Mental Health Block Grant School-Based Mental Health access and capacity enhancement in January of 2022. Are these sites eligible for the additional funding consideration of \$25,000?

ANSWER – Sites that received Mental Health Block Grant School-Based Mental Health Clinic Services for Children/Youth Supporting Growth: Access and Capacity Enhancement Grant (December 2021) are not eligible for funding for that site from the School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA. These providers may apply for funding for a different site.

14. Can a school district that doesn't have 50% of the students classified as disadvantaged, but may have some other reason for being "high need" such as having severe flood damage in a community, or high rates of overdose, apply for the funding at the \$25,000 level?

ANSWER – The additional \$20,000 funding for satellites opened in high needs districts is limited to schools in districts identified in the appendix of the RFA. For eligible applicants establishing a satellite in a district not captured on the High Needs list, the \$25,000 funding option applies.

15. If we include employees salary and fringe on the application for reimbursement, can it be current employees that will start completing new duties pertaining to the new satellite office? Or does it have to be entirely new staff?

ANSWER – Budgeting should include staffing assigned to the identified school-based satellite whether the staff is intended to be reassigned or cost allocated to the satellite.

16. If we wanted to open 2 separate satellite offices would the combined total be a max of \$45,000? Or would it be 2 separate applications and each one could be up to \$45,000?

ANSWER – An eligible applicant can submit one application for each new satellite location that will be newly opened or recently implemented. Each new satellite that is issued an award would receive \$25,000 each (if not located in a high need district) or \$45,000 each (if located in a high needs district).

17. I know that the timeframe of eligible satellite offices has to be either the 22/23 or 23/24 school year, so can you tell we what the timeframe of the grant would be (I am assuming it will be a 1 year or 18 month timeframe)?

ANSWER – The contracts awarded in response to this RFA will be for two (2) years, 1/1/24 – 12/31/25.

18. When would the award notices be sent out?

ANSWER – As per the RFP, the tentative award notification date is 10/31/23.

19. Can the funds be used for a clinic in a private school or are the funds only for clinics in public schools?

ANSWER – The School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellite Expansion RFA applies to the establishment of a school-based satellite in New York State schools, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, including public, charter, and private schools. The release of funding may be further subject to the submission and approval of a EZ Prior Application Review (PAR) application, as necessary.

20. Under usual circumstances, we would apply for a satellite site license – one application. It appears that the RFA is asking for an application for the available funds – another application. Do we submit a site application, as we normally would, in addition to the RFA response (application) or is the site application part of the response to the RFA?

ANSWER – In order to receive grant awards under the RFA, the eligible applicant would be required to submit an application for these funds. The EZ-PAR application is a separate application process. Eligible applicants are not required to have submitted an EZ-PAR prior to, or concurrent to, the submittal of the RFA application for new satellites. However, the release of funding may be further subject to the submission and approval of an EZ-PAR application and the EZ-PAR process should be factored into the contract timeframe.