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Contracting Opportunity

Title: SOLICITATION OF INTEREST - Peer Group Support for COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts in Congregate Settings

Agency: Mental Health, NYS Office of

Division: Community Budget & Financial Management

Contract Number: TBD

Contract Term: TBD

Date of Issue: 11/17/2021

Due Date/Time: 12/09/2021 4:00 PM
SOLICITATION OF INTEREST ONLY

County(ies): All NYS counties

Location: Statewide - by Region

Classification(s): Medical & Health Care - *Consulting & Other Services* Miscellaneous - *Consulting & Other Services*

Opportunity Type: General

Description: **Eligible Applicants:**

- Not-for profit (with 501(c)(3) incorporation) Recipient Run (Peer Run) Agencies and Programs.
- Not-for-profits (with 501(c)(3) incorporation) with demonstrated experience providing Peer services.

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is seeking Letters of Interest for delivering COVID-19 vaccine education services in OMH congregate residential settings. Congregate residential settings are relatively high-risk environments for potential outbreaks, and misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines has been a significant barrier to curbing viral transmission. Peer-to-peer education, however, has been shown to be an effective medium for improving awareness of risks and encouraging vaccination. OMH plans to award a total of five \$200,000 contracts to one peer team in each of the five OMH regions (Long Island, New York City, Central, Hudson River, and Western) to maximize reach.

The goals of this initiative are to:

- Increase the COVID-19 vaccination rate among residents and staff in licensed and unlicensed supported housing settings throughout the state (with each regional team focusing on its own local counties)
- Provide non-judgmental approaches to addressing vaccine hesitancy
- Collaborate with clinical staff from OMH to bring vaccines into the

community for convenient administration

It is strongly recommended that applicant peer teams:

- Come from peer-run agencies or programs, or, if not from peer-run agencies, teams should be fully supported and supervised by peers
- Represent the communities they would serve through this opportunity: teams should include members with lived experience with mental illness, substance use, and/or any conditions that make individuals more vulnerable to COVID-19
- Include members who personally delayed getting vaccinated or have close experience with others who did
- Have experience with engagement, ideally in residential settings
- Include 3-5 full time staff
- Can occasionally work with clinical staff from OMH to provide interested individuals with the COVID-19 vaccine

Selected peer teams must:

- Receive training from OMH Pharmacist(s) to ensure uniform understanding of the COVID-19 vaccines and the virus itself, as well as from the OMH Office of Consumer Affairs, on strategies for outreach, key talking points, and shared decision-making tools
- Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza, both to model the intention of the program and to ensure community outreach is done safely

Peer teams will, in pairs or larger groups:

- Communicate with sites' residential and/or program directors and coordinate visits to unlicensed and licensed supported housing providers in designated local areas
- Schedule visits to local congregate settings to meet with groups, provide drop-in hours, and meet one-on-one with individuals, especially during evening and weekend hours
- Provide contact information for residents and staff to reach out with questions on their own terms
- Educate residents and staff about harm reduction related to COVID-19, such as the importance of wearing masks and handwashing to reduce infection transmission
- Answer residents' and staff members' questions about the COVID-19 virus and vaccines
- Engage residents through motivational interviewing, providing incentives for participation and for vaccination, facilitating interactive experiences and games, and other creative means
- Help coordinate vaccinations as needed and as available

If this Solicitation results in a contract award, planning discussions will take place between the peer team(s), their regional OMH field office, and staff from the OMH Central Office regarding next steps.

Please indicate your interest by emailing Carol Swiderski at carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov by Thursday, 12/9/21 at 4:00 PM.

Please note that this is solely a Solicitation of Interest only and does not guarantee

an award or contract.

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Set Aside: No

Total MWBE Participation Goals: 0%

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Contracting Goal: 0%

Disadvantaged Owned Sub-Contracting Goal: 0%

Contact Information

Primary contact: Mental Health, NYS Office of
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Documents

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Awards

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