



**Office of  
Mental Health**

**Statewide Structure and Network for  
Family Support and Advocacy  
Questions & Answers**

**Q1. My organization addresses issues for families of children with behavioral health issues, but some of its main focuses are on families of adults with mental health conditions. When our board of directors is at full capacity, 50% of them are caregivers of youths with mental/behavioral health issues or have been a caregiver for someone under 21 with mental/behavioral health issues. We are not at full board capacity now, but are actively recruiting. Is our organization eligible to apply for this grant??**

A1. As noted in the Purpose of the Request for Proposal in Section 1.1, the intent of the funding is to “support a statewide family peer support infrastructure to ensure family peers, advocates, and caregivers of children with mental health needs have the resources and information they need.” The RFP is focused on supporting the children’s mental health system and family peer advocates.

Respondents will be required to outline how they meet all criterion included in Section 2.5 Eligible Applicants in their proposal as required in Section 6.6. Objective 6: Administrative Infrastructure and Staffing. Vacancies and requirements associated with vacancies can be noted.

**Q2. We are an OASAS agency. Are we eligible to apply?**

A2. Eligible applicants must be not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), family-run entities located in New York State as defined and outlined in Section 2.5 of the RFP. Applicants must meet all criterion as outlined in this Section to be eligible.

**Q3. We’re a New York City based organization and were wondering if you’d consider awarding an entity that is not currently statewide with the contract and then the organization could use partnerships/sub-contractors in the other geographic areas.**

A3. The RFP funding is to support the development of a Statewide Structure and Network for Family Support and Advocacy. As such, it is expected that all activities and action steps be made available in all regions of the State. Applicants will be required to clearly outline in their proposals how they plan to meet all Objectives and Responsibilities outlined in Section 5.2, which includes expectations for regional and statewide implementation.

**Q4. What are the requirements that must be included in the MWBE Utilization Plan?**

A4. The MWBE Utilization Plan is not applicable to the RFP application process. If awarded a contract, the required documentation will be detailed through the contracting process.

**Q5. For Objective 2- Family Involvement & Input to Service Providers- how are child serving service providers defined?**

A5. The primary focus will always be children's mental health agencies, but since children are often engaged in multiple child-serving systems (e.g., schools, child welfare, substance use, etc.) we recognize the need for advocacy and education of those systems when working to ensure children's services are youth-guided and family-driven.

**Q6. What are the OMH regions?**

A6. There are five OMH regions in New York State. A regional map can be found at: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/aboutomh/fieldoffices.html>.

**Q7. Can you please clarify what conducting activities on a statewide basis looks like?**

**a. Can you please give an example of an activity that is considered statewide?**

A7. Statewide activities are those that convene individuals from all over the State to engage in a large event or educational opportunity, such as a conference or advocacy day at the Capitol. While local or regional events are focused on smaller catchment areas to engage a subset of the State in an event or opportunity.

**Q8. Will ongoing activities happening (by applicants) in different cities in the state of New York be acceptable and/or recognized as conducting activities statewide?**

A8. Applicants will be required to outline in their proposal how their planned statewide or regional activities meet the Objectives and Responsibilities outlined in Section 5.2 of the RFP.

**Q9. In regard to staff being family members, please clarify the following...**

**Does that mean a staff member/s should be a family member of a child currently under 21 and/or \* a family member has who has been a staff member prior to their child turning 21?**

A9. A family member, as outlined in Eligible Applicants under Section 2.5 of the RFP, is an individual who was the primary caregiver for a child/ren who have/had a social, emotional, behavioral (mental health) challenge and received mental health services prior to age 21; regardless of whether their child is currently receiving mental health services or no longer under 21 years of age.

**Q10. Can you please give an example of ways an applicant could have worked with the NYS Office of Mental Health?**

A10. Family run organizations can be funded, licensed, or contracted for services or supports with the Office of Mental Health. In addition, family run organizations and their staff often advocate to the Office of Mental Health or OMH regional offices on behalf of those they serve or to create positive systemic change. Any of these examples will apply.

**Q11. Can you please give an example of ways an applicant could have worked with both licensed and non-licensed service providers?**

A11. Family run organizations can be funded, licensed, or contracted for services with the Office of Mental Health and themselves a licensed or non-licensed provider of services or supports in the children's mental health system. In addition, family run organizations and their staff may have advocated to a mental health licensed or non-licensed provider agency on behalf of those they serve or to create positive systemic change. Family run organizations may also offer training or technical assistance to licensed and non-licensed mental health providers on family driven and youth guided care. Any of these examples will apply.