



Afghan Refugee Health Program

Request for Proposals

Grant Procurements

(On-Line Submission Required)

Statewide Financial System (SFS) Identifier- OMH142

October 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
1.1	Purpose of the Request for Proposal	1
1.2	Target Population/Eligibility Criteria	1
2.	PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS	1
2.1	DESIGNATED CONTACT/ISSUING OFFICER	1
2.2	Key Events/Timeline	2
2.3	Disposition of Proposals.....	2
2.4	Eligible Agencies.....	2
2.5	RFP Questions and Clarifications	2
2.6	Addenda to Request for Proposals	3
2.7	Disqualification Factors	3
2.8	SFS Prequalification Requirement	3
2.9	Vendor Registration, Prequalification and Training Resources for Not-for-Profits.....	3
3.	ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	6
3.1	Reserved Rights	6
3.2	Debriefing	7
3.3	Protests Related to the Solicitation Process.....	7
3.4	Term of Contracts	7
3.5	Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises.....	7
3.6	Participation Opportunities for New York State Certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business.....	9
3.7	Equal Opportunity Employment.....	9
3.8	Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification	10
3.9	Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification.....	10
3.10	Bid Response	11
3.11	Acceptance of Terms and Conditions.....	11
3.12	Freedom of Information Requirements.....	11
3.13	NYS and OMH Policies	11
4.	EVALUATION FACTORS AND AWARDS.....	11
4.1	Evaluation Criteria.....	11
4.2	Method for Evaluating Proposals	12
4.3	Process for Awarding Contracts.....	12
4.3.1	Initial Awards and Allocations	12
4.4	Contract Termination and Reassignment	13
4.5	Counties to be Served	13
5.	SCOPE OF WORK.....	14
5.1	Introduction	14
5.2	Objectives and Responsibilities.....	14
5.3	Operating Funding	14
6.	PROPOSAL NARRATIVE.....	15
6.1	Population.....	15
6.2	Agency Organization & Qualifications	16
6.3	Implementation	16

New York State Office of Mental Health

6.4	Agency Performance	16
6.5	Utilization Review, Reporting, and Quality Improvement.....	17
6.6	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Recipient Input.....	17
6.7	Financial Assessment.....	19

New York State Office of Mental Health

1. Introduction And Background

1.1 Purpose of the Request for Proposal

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH or “Office” herein after) announces the availability of funds for the promotion of health literacy, coordination of mental health services, and facilitation of wellness group activities for Afghan arrivals. Many Afghans are arriving to the United States with immediate as well as long-term mental health needs. It is critical to ensure Afghan arrivals are supported and understand how to access and receive culturally-informed, individualized, quality mental health care and support services. It is critical that the mental health providers interacting and serving Afghan arrivals should be knowledgeable of the culture and unique challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

Notice: Notification of intent to apply should be made to the Local Governmental Unit (county director of community services) for each county to be served under the program application, as defined in Section 41 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law.

1.2 Target Population/Eligibility Criteria

The services provided through this RFP are intended for the following Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act (ASA) eligible individuals:

- Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan (including unaccompanied minors) paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023
- A spouse or child of any individual described above in J.B.1.a., who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023
- A parent or legal guardian of any individual described above in B.1.a., who is determined to be an unaccompanied child as defined by 6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2), who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023.
- Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for whom refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized (e.g., Special Immigrant Visa holders, Special Immigrants with Conditional Permanent Resident status, SI/SQ parolees, refugees, asylees), whose eligibility date is on or after July 31, 2021. This group is eligible for benefits and services for the traditional ORR eligibility timeframe defined under 45 CFR Part 400.
- Persons in any other status that ORR has deemed eligible for Afghan Health Promotion funds.

2. Proposal Submissions

2.1 Designated Contact/Issuing Officer

OMH has assigned an Issuing Officer for this project. The Issuing Officer or a designee shall be the sole point of contact regarding the RFP from the date of issuance of the RFP until the issuance of the Notice of Conditional Award. To avoid being deemed non-responsive, an applicant is restricted from making contact with any other personnel of OMH regarding the RFP. Certain findings of non-responsibility can result in rejection for a contract award. The

New York State Office of Mental Health

Issuing Officer for this RFP is:

Jeremy Rossello
New York State Office of Mental Health
Contracts and Claims
44 Holland Avenue, 7th Floor
Albany, NY 12229
OMHLocalProcurement@omh.ny.gov

2.2 Key Events/Timeline

RFP Release Date	10/16/2025
Questions Due	11/5/25
Questions and Answers Posted on Website	11/19/2025
Proposals Due by 2:00 PM EST*	12/17/2025
Anticipated Award Notification	1/22/2026
Anticipated Contract Start Date	4/1/2026

*OMH strongly advises that applicants do not wait until the last day/last few hours to complete and submit applications/proposals to Grant RFPs. Exceptions will not be considered or made for an applicant who cannot complete their proposal/application by the due date and time of the RFP. **Please note that there are restrictions to the type, size and naming conventions of the files and attachments uploaded in SFS. For more information, please review the SFS Attachment Guide [Here](#). Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in attachments not being viewable to reviewers.**

2.3 Disposition of Proposals

All proposals submitted by the due date and time become the property of OMH. Any proposals not received by the due date and time do not get reviewed and are excluded from consideration.

2.4 Eligible Agencies

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit agencies with 501(c) (3) incorporation.

Prequalification is required for all not-for-profit organizations seeking grant funding from New York State. Please see Section 2.9 and additional Prequalification Information.

Please be advised that all questions regarding Eligibility will be responded to through the official posting of the Questions and Answers. No questions about Eligibility will be responded to either individually or prior to the posting of the Q&As.

2.5 RFP Questions and Clarifications

All questions or requests for clarification concerning the RFP shall be submitted in writing to the Issuing Officer by e-mail to OMHLocalProcurement@omh.ny.gov by 2:00 PM EST on the "Questions Due" date indicated in section 2.2 and will be limited to addressing only those questions submitted by the deadline. No questions can be submitted or will be answered after this date. No questions will be answered by telephone or in person. Please enter "Name of RFP" in the subject line of the email.

The questions and official answers will be posted on the OMH website by the date listed in the timeline section 2.2.

2.6 Addenda to Request for Proposals

In the event that it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP during the application submission period, an addendum will be posted on the OMH website and the NYS Contract Reporter.

It is the applicant's responsibility to periodically review the [OMH Procurement website](#) and the [NYS Contract Reporter](#) to learn of revisions or addendums to this RFP. No other notification will be given.

2.7 Disqualification Factors

Following the opening of bids, a preliminary review of all proposals will be conducted by the Issuing Officer or a designee to review each proposal's submission for completeness and verify that all eligibility criteria have been met. Additionally, during the proposal evaluation process, evaluators will also be reviewing eligibility criteria and confirming that they have been met. During the course of either of these review processes, proposals that do not meet basic participation standards will be disqualified, specifically:

- Proposals from applicants that do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in 2.4; or
- Proposals that do not comply with bid submission and/or required format instructions as specified in 2.9 or
- Proposals from eligible not-for-profit applicants who have not completed Vendor Prequalification, as described in 2.9, by 2:00 PM EST on the Proposal Due Date posted in section 2.2.

2.8 SFS Prequalification Requirement

Pursuant to the New York State Division of Budget Bulletin H-1032, dated June 7, 2013, New York State has instituted key reform initiatives to the grant contract process which require not-for-profits to be Prequalified in order for proposals to be evaluated and any resulting contracts executed.

Proposals received from eligible not-for-profit applicants who have not been Prequalified by the proposal due date of 2:00 PM EST on the Proposal Due Date posted in section 2.3 will not be able to submit their bid response through SFS.

Please do not delay in beginning and completing the prequalification process. The State reserves five (5) days to review submitted prequalification applications. Prequalification applications submitted to the State for review less than 5 days prior to the RFP due date and time may not be considered. Applicants should not assume their prequalification information will be reviewed if they do not adhere to this timeframe.

2.9 Vendor Registration, Prequalification and Training Resources for Not-for-Profits

NOTE: All applications must be submitted through the Statewide Financial System (SFS). No applications will be accepted electronically, US Postal Service, express mail delivery service or hand delivered.

For any application that does not contain all of the required documentation and/or "See Attached" responses that were to be uploaded, please be advised that the application will be reviewed and scored as submitted. For any incomplete response or missing

and/or inappropriately submitted documentation, points will be deducted. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure, prior to submission, that the application is appropriate and complete.

Each proposal submission through SFS is required to contain:

- Operating Budget (Appendix B)

All applicants must be registered with the New York State Statewide Financial System (SFS) and all Not-for-Profit agencies must be prequalified prior to proposal submission.

Not-for-profit organizations must Register as a vendor with the Statewide Financial System and successfully Prequalify to be considered for an award.

This grant opportunity is being conducted as an SFS bid event. Not-for-profit vendors that are not prequalified can initiate and complete bid responses. However, not-for-profit vendors that are not prequalified will NOT be allowed to submit their bid response for consideration.

Information on [Registration](#) and [Prequalification](#) are available on the Grants Management Website. A high-level synopsis is provided below.

Registering as an SFS Vendor

To register an organization, send a complete [Grants Management Registration Form for Statewide Financial System \(SFS\) Vendors](#) and accompanying documentation where required by email to grantsmanagement@its.ny.gov. You will be provided with a Username and Password allowing you to access SFS.

Note: New York State Grants Management reserves 5 business days from the receipt of complete materials to process a registration request. Due to the length of time this process could take to complete, it is advised that new registrants send in their registration form as soon as possible. Failure to register early enough may prevent potential applicants from being able to complete a grant application on time.

If you have previously registered and do not know your Username, please contact the SFS Help Desk at (855) 233-8363 or at Helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov. If you do not know your Password, please click the [SFS Vendor Forgot Password](#) link from the main log in page and follow the prompts.

Prequalifying in SFS

- Log into the SFS Vendor Portal.
- Click on the Grants Management tile.
- Click on the Prequalification Application tile. The Prequalification Welcome Page is displayed. Review the instructions and basic information provided onscreen.

Note - If either of the above referenced tiles are not viewable, you may be experiencing a role issue. Contact your organization's Delegated Administrator and request the Prequalification Processor role.

- Select the Initiate a Prequalification Application radio button and click the Next button to begin the process. Starting with Organization Information, move through the steps listed on the left side of the screen to upload Required Documents, provide Contacts

New York State Office of Mental Health

and Submit your Prequalification Application.

Note - If the Initiate a Prequalification Application radio button is not available, your organization may have already started a prequalification application and could even be prequalified. Click on the Version History Link to review your organization's prequalification status. If you are not currently prequalified, or your prequalification expires prior to the due date of this RFA, you will need to choose Collaborate on or Update your application.

- System generated email notifications will be sent to the contact(s) listed in the Contacts section when the prequalification application is Submitted, Approved, or returned by the State for more information. If additional information is requested, be certain to respond timely and resubmit your application accordingly.

Note: New York State reserves 5 business days from the receipt of complete Prequalification applications to conduct its review. If supplementary information or updates are required, review times will be longer. Due to the length of time this process could take to complete, it is advised that nonprofits Prequalify as soon as possible. Failure to successfully complete the Prequalification process early enough may result in a grant application being disqualified.

Please note that all responses/applications/submissions to this RFP **must** be submitted through the Statewide Financial System (SFS). No mailed, delivered or emailed submissions will be accepted. OMH strongly recommends that applicants plan accordingly and allow themselves enough time to appropriately complete and submit by the due date and time of this RFP.

When providing uploads in response to any of the questions posed (other than the Fiscal/Budget component), please upload only PDF versions of those documents. When saving these files before uploading, with the exception of an underscore, please do not use any special characters in the file name, letters only should be used.

Specific questions about SFS should be referred to the SFS Help Desk at helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov.

On Demand Grantee Training Material

A recorded session with information about the transition to SFS is available for Grantees on the Grants Management website - <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/> and in SFS Coach.

The following training material focused on grants management functionality is currently available in SFS Coach:

- An SFS Vendor Portal Reference Guide (https://upk.sfs.ny.gov/UPK/VEN101/FILES/SFS_Vendor_Portal_Access_Reference_Guide.pdf) to help Grantees understand which Grants Management roles they need in the SFS Vendor Portal based on the work they are currently involved in.
- A Grantee Handbook (upk.sfs.ny.gov/UPK/VEN101/FILES/Grantee_User_Manual.pdf), which provides screenshots and step-by-step guidance on how to complete Grants Management-related tasks in SFS

New York State Office of Mental Health

- On-demand recorded training videos focused on each aspect of the Grants Management business process

Agencies can view vendor training material in SFS Coach by selecting **SFS Training for Vendors** from the Topic drop-down list.

3. Administrative Information

3.1 Reserved Rights

OMH reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals received in response to the RFP that are deemed non-responsive or do not meet the minimum requirements or are determined to be otherwise unacceptable, in the agency's sole discretion;
- Withdraw the RFP at any time, at the agency's sole discretion
- Make an award under the RFP in whole or in part;
- Disqualify any applicant and rescind any conditional award or contract made to such applicant whose conduct as a provider does not meet applicable standards as determined solely by OMH and/or proposal fails to conform to the requirements of the RFP;
- Seek clarifications and revisions of proposals for the purposes of assuring a full understanding of the responsiveness to this solicitation's requirements;
- Use proposal information obtained through the state's investigation of an applicant's qualifications, experience, ability or financial standing, and any material or information submitted by the applicant in response to the agency's request for clarifying information in the course of evaluation and/or selection under the RFP;
- Prior to the bid opening, direct applicants to submit proposal modifications addressing subsequent RFP amendments;
- Prior to the bid opening, amend the RFP specifications to correct errors or oversight, supply additional information, or extend any of the scheduled dates or requirements and provide notification to potential bidders via the OMH website, SFS and the New York State (NYS) Contract Reporter;
- Eliminate any non-material specifications that cannot be complied with by all of the prospective applicants;
- Waive any requirements that are not material;
- Negotiate any aspect of the proposal with the successful applicant in order to ensure that the final agreement meets OMH objectives and is in the best interests of the State;
- Conduct contract negotiations with the next responsible applicant, should the agency be unsuccessful in negotiating with the selected applicant;
- Require clarification at any time during the procurement process and/or require correction of arithmetic or other apparent errors for the purpose of assuring a full and complete understanding of an applicant's proposal and/or to determine an applicant's

New York State Office of Mental Health

compliance with the requirements of the solicitation;

- Cancel or modify contracts due to insufficiency of appropriations, cause, convenience, mutual consent, non-responsibility, or a “force majeure”;
- Change any of the scheduled dates stated in the RFP.

3.2 Debriefing

OMH will issue award and non-award notifications to all applicants. Non-awarded applicants may request a debriefing, in writing, requesting feedback on their own proposal, within 15 business days of the OMH dated letter. OMH will not offer debriefing to providers who receive an award. OMH will not offer ranking, statistical, or cost information of other proposals until after the NYS Office of the State Comptroller has approved all awards under this RFP. Written debriefing requests may be sent to the Designated Contact, as defined in Section 2.1.

3.3 Protests Related to the Solicitation Process

Protests based on errors or omissions in the solicitation process, which are or should have been apparent prior to the deadline for receipt of all written questions for this RFP, must be filed prior to the deadline for questions. In the event an applicant files a timely protest based on error or omission in the solicitation process, the Commissioner of OMH or their designee will review such protest and may, as appropriate, issue a written response or addendum to the RFP to be posted on the OMH website in the RFP section. Protests of an award decision must be filed within fifteen (15) business days after the notice of conditional award or five (5) business days from the date of the debriefing. The Commissioner or their designee will review the matter and issue a written decision within twenty (20) business days of receipt of protest.

All protests must be in writing and must clearly and fully state the legal and factual grounds for the protest and include all relevant documentation. The written documentation should clearly state reference to the RFP title and due date. Such protests must be submitted to:

New York State Office of Mental Health
Commissioner Ann Marie T. Sullivan, M.D.
44 Holland Ave
Albany, NY 12229

3.4 Term of Contracts

The contracts awarded in response to this RFP will be time-limited one-time funding which will need to be exhausted by September 30, 2026. No contract extensions can be provided after this date. OMH reserves the right to modify the first period of the contract to coincide with the applicable fiscal period. For New York City contracts, the fiscal period is July 1 through June 30 of each year. Selected applicants awarded a contract under this RFP will be required to adhere to all terms and conditions in OMH's Contract for Grants.

3.5 Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises

OMH recognizes its obligation to promote opportunities for maximum feasible participation of certified minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBES) and the employment of minority group members and women in the performance of OMH contracts. OMH expects that all contactors make a good-faith effort to utilize Minority and/or Women Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE), on any award resulting from this solicitation in excess of \$25,000 for

commodities and services or \$100,000 for construction.

With respect to MWBEs, each award recipient must document its good faith efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for participation by MWBEs as subcontractors and suppliers in the performance of the project to be described in each grant disbursement agreement and must agree that OMH may withhold payment pending receipt of the required MWBE documentation. The directory of MWBEs can be viewed at <https://ny.newnycontracts.com>. For guidance on how OMH will determine a contractor's "good faith efforts", refer to 5 NYCRR §142.8.

In accordance with 5 NYCRR § 142.13, each award recipient acknowledges that if it is found to have willfully and intentionally failed to comply with the MWBE participation goals set forth herein and in its grant disbursement agreements, such finding constitutes a breach of contract and OMH may withhold payment from the award recipient as liquidated damages.

Such liquidated damages shall be calculated as an amount equaling the difference between: (1) all sums identified for payment to MWBEs had the award recipient achieved the contractual MWBE goals; and (2) all sums paid to MWBEs for work performed or material supplied under the grant disbursement agreement.

By applying, an Applicant agrees to demonstrate its good faith efforts to achieve its goals for the utilization of MWBEs by submitting evidence thereof in such form as OMH shall require. Additionally, an Applicant may be required to submit the following documents and information as evidence of compliance with the foregoing:

- A. An MWBE Utilization Plan, which shall be submitted in conjunction with the execution of the grant disbursement agreement except as otherwise authorized by OMH. Any modifications or changes to the MWBE Utilization Plan after the execution of the grant disbursement agreement must be reported on a revised MWBE Utilization Plan and submitted to OMH.

OMH will review the submitted MWBE Utilization Plan and advise the award recipient of OMH acceptance or issue a notice of deficiency within 30 days of receipt.

- B. If a notice of deficiency is issued, the award recipient will be required to respond to the notice of deficiency within seven (7) business days of receipt by submitting to OMH, a written remedy in response to the notice of deficiency. If the written remedy that is submitted is not timely or is found by OMH to be inadequate, OMH shall notify the award recipient and direct the award recipient to submit within five (5) business days, a request for a partial or total waiver of MWBE participation goals. Failure to file the waiver form in a timely manner may be grounds for disqualification of the bid or proposal.

OMH may refuse to enter into a grant disbursement agreement, or terminate an existing grant disbursement agreement resulting from this solicitation, under the following circumstances:

- i. If an award recipient fails to submit a MWBE Utilization Plan;
- ii. If an award recipient fails to submit a written remedy to a notice of deficiency;
- iii. If an award recipient fails to submit a request for waiver; or,
- iv. If OMH determines that the award recipient has failed to document good faith

efforts

The award recipient will be required to attempt to utilize, in good faith, any MBE or WBE identified within its MWBE Utilization Plan, during the performance of the project.

Requests for a partial or total waiver of established goal requirements may be made at any time during the term of the project, but must be made no later than prior to the submission of a request for final payment under the grant disbursement agreement.

Each award recipient will be required to submit a Quarterly MWBE Contractor Compliance & Payment Report to OMH over the term of the project, in such form and at such time as OMH shall require, documenting the progress made toward achievement of the MWBE goals established for the project.

3.6 Participation Opportunities for New York State Certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business

Article 17-B of the New York State Executive Law provides for more meaningful participation in public procurement by certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB), thereby further integrating such businesses into New York State's economy. OMH recognizes the need to promote the employment of service-disabled veterans and to ensure that certified service-disabled veteran-owned businesses have opportunities for maximum feasible participation in the performance of OMH contracts.

In recognition of the service and sacrifices made by service-disabled veterans and in recognition of their economic activity in doing business in New York State, applicants are expected to consider SDVOBs in the fulfillment of the requirements of the Contract. Such participation may be as subcontractors or suppliers, as proteges, or in other partnering or supporting roles.

OMH hereby establishes an overall goal of 0% for SDVOB participation, based on the current availability of qualified SDVOBs. For purposes of providing meaningful participation by SDVOBs, the Applicant/Contractor would reference the directory of New York State Certified SDVOBs found at <https://ogs.ny.gov/Veterans>. Additionally, following any resulting Contract execution, Contractor would be encouraged to contact the Office of General Services' Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development to discuss additional methods of maximizing participation by SDVOBs on the Contract.

It would be required that "good faith efforts" to provide meaningful participation by SDVOBs as subcontractors or suppliers in the performance of a resulting awarded Contract as documented.

3.7 Equal Opportunity Employment

By submission of a bid or proposal in response to this solicitation, the Applicant/Contractor agrees with all terms and conditions of Contract for Grants, Section IV(J) – Standard Clauses for All New York State Contracts including Clause 12 – Equal Employment Opportunities for Minorities and Women. The Contractor is required to ensure that it and any subcontractors awarded a subcontract over \$25,000 for the construction, demolition, replacement, major repair, renovation, planning or design of real property and improvements thereon (the "Work"), except where the Work is for the beneficial use of the Contractor, undertake or continue

programs to ensure that minority group members and women are afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status. For these purposes, equal opportunity shall apply in the areas of recruitment, employment, job assignment, promotion, upgrading, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, and rates of pay or other forms of compensation. This requirement does not apply to (i) work, goods, or services unrelated to the Contract; or (ii) employment outside New York State.

The Applicant will be required to submit a Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises and Equal Opportunity Policy Statement, to the State Contracting Agency with their bid or proposal. To ensure compliance with this Section, the Applicant will be required to submit with the bid or proposal an Equal Opportunity Staffing Plan (Form # to be supplied during contracting process) identifying the anticipated work force to be utilized on the Contract. If awarded a Contract, Contractor shall submit a Workforce Utilization Report, in such format as shall be required by the Contracting State Agency on a monthly or quarterly basis during the term of the contract. Further, pursuant to Article 15 of the Executive Law (the "Human Rights Law"), all other State and Federal statutory and constitutional and non-discrimination provisions, the Contractor and sub-contractors will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment status because of race, creed (religion), color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, age, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, marital status, or domestic violence victim status, and shall also follow the requirements of the Human Rights Law with regard to non-discrimination on the basis of prior criminal conviction and prior arrest. Please Note: Failure to comply with the foregoing requirements may result in a finding of non-responsiveness, non-responsibility and/or a breach of the Contract, leading to the withholding of funds, suspension or termination of the Contract or such other actions or enforcement proceedings as allowed by the Contract.

3.8 Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification

State Finance Law §139-l requires applicants on state procurements to certify that they have a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provide annual sexual harassment training (that meets the Department of Labor's model policy and training standards) to all its employees. Bids that do not contain the certification may not be considered for award; provided however, that if the applicant cannot make the certification, the applicant may provide a statement with their bid detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be made. A template certification document is being provided as part of this RFP. Applicants must complete and return the certification with their bid or provide a statement detailing why the certification cannot be made.

3.9 Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Certification

State Finance Law §139-m requires all vendors bidding on state contracts to implement and attest to a Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace policy. Applicants on state procurements must certify that they have a written policy addressing gender-based violence in the workplace that meets the minimum requirements of State Finance Law §139-m. Bids that do not contain the certification may not be considered for award; provided however, that if the applicant cannot make the certification, the applicant may provide a statement with their bid detailing the reasons why the certification cannot be made. A template certification document is being provided as part of this RFP. Applicants must complete and return the certification with their bid or provide a statement detailing why the certification cannot be made.

3.10 Bid Response

Neither the State of New York or OMH shall be responsible for the costs or expenses incurred by the applicant in preparation or presentation of the bid proposal.

3.11 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

A bid, in order to be responsive to this solicitation, must satisfy the specifications set forth in this RFP. A detailed description of this format and content requirements is presented in Section 2.9 of this RFP.

3.12 Freedom of Information Requirements

All proposals submitted for OMH's consideration will be held in confidence. However, the resulting contract is subject to New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). Therefore, if an applicant believes that any information in its bid constitutes a trade secret or should otherwise be treated as confidential and wishes such information not be disclosed if requested, pursuant to FOIL (Article 6 of Public Officer's Law), the applicant must submit with its bid, a separate letter specifically identifying the page number(s), line(s), or other appropriate designation(s) containing such information explaining in detail why such information is a trade secret and formally requesting that such information be kept confidential. Failure by an applicant to submit such a letter with its bid identifying trade secrets will constitute a waiver by the applicant of any rights it may have under Section 89(5) of the Public Officers Law relating to the protection of trade secrets. The proprietary nature of the information designated confidential by the applicant may be subject to disclosure if ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. A request that an entire bid be kept confidential is not advisable since a bid cannot reasonably consist of all data subject to a FOIL proprietary status.

3.13 NYS and OMH Policies

The applicant/contractor must agree to comply with all applicable Federal, New York State and OMH policies, procedures, regulations and directives throughout the Term of the contract.

4. Evaluation Factors and Awards

4.1 Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be rated and ranked in order of highest score based on an evaluation of each applicant's written submission. **Please note that there are restrictions to the type, size and naming conventions of the files and attachments uploaded in SFS. For more information, please review the SFS Attachment Guide [Here](#). Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in attachments not being viewable to reviewers.**

The Evaluation will apply points in the following categories as defined in Section 6:

Technical Evaluation	Points
LGU Proof of Notification	1
Population	15
Agency Organization & Qualifications	12

Implementation	14
Agency Performance	18
Utilization Review, Reporting, and Quality Improvement	10
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Peer Support Language	10
Financial Assessment	20
Total Proposal Points	100

For a detailed description of evaluation criteria for the Technical Evaluation and the Financial Assessment components, see Section 6 (Proposal Narrative).

4.2 Method for Evaluating Proposals

Designated staff will review each proposal for completeness and verify that all eligibility criteria are met. A complete proposal shall include all required components as described in Section 2.9. If a proposal is not complete or does not meet the basic eligibility and participation standards as outlined in Section 2.4, the proposal will be eliminated from further review. The agency will be notified of the rejection of its proposal within 10 working days of the proposal due date.

Proposals will be conducted in two parts: Technical Evaluation and Financial Assessment. The technical evaluation committee, consisting of at least three evaluators, will review the technical portion of each proposal and compute a technical score. A financial score will be computed separately based on the operating budget and budget narrative submitted.

Evaluators of the Technical Evaluation component may then meet to discuss the basis of those ratings. Following the discussion, evaluators may independently revise their original score in any section. Once completed, final Technical Evaluation scores will then be recalculated, averaged, and applied to the final Financial Assessment score to arrive at final scores.

Any proposal not receiving a minimum score of 70 will be eliminated from consideration.

In case of a tie in the scoring process, the proposal with the highest score on the Agency Performance (Section 6.3) of the Proposal Narrative will be ranked higher.

4.3 Process for Awarding Contracts

4.3.1 Initial Awards and Allocations

Proposals will be ranked by score. A minimum of ten (10) awards will be made to the applicants with the highest score(s) in each region until the award distribution reflects the

New York State Office of Mental Health

regional distribution in Table 1, intended to cover all five regions.

In the event there are no/not enough applications or applications with a passing score for a region, OMH will award to the next highest score in a region until all possible awards are made. This may result in more awards than indicated in the table in Section 4.5.

4.4 Contract Termination and Reassignment

There are several factors that may result in the contract being reassigned. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Failure to provide linguistically and culturally competent services to the intended service population
- Failure to comply with data collection processes and reporting as outlined by the funding source

At the conclusion of the procurement, notification will be sent to successful and non-successful applicants. All awards are subject to approval by the NYS Attorney General and the Office of the State Comptroller before an operating contract can be finalized.

4.5 Counties to be Served

Table 1

OMH Regions	Counties in each Region	Number of Awards
NYC	Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond	2
Long Island	Nassau, Suffolk	2
Hudson River	Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Westchester	2
Central New York	Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Fulton, Franklin, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, St. Lawrence	2
Western New York	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates	2

5. Scope of Work

5.1 Introduction

Many Afghans are arriving to the United States with immediate as well as long-term mental health needs. It is critical to ensure Afghan arrivals are supported and understand how to access and receive culturally-informed, individualized quality mental health care and supports. Additionally, mental health providers interacting and serving Afghan arrivals should be knowledgeable of the culture and unique challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

The funds awarded through this RFP will be used for awardees to promote health literacy, coordinate mental health services and facilitate wellness groups for Afghan new arrivals. These coordinated efforts will be made available to individuals in the native languages of Afghan Nationals including but not limited to Arabic, Dari, Farsi and Pashto.

The Local Governmental Unit (LGU), Director of Community Service (DCS)/Mental Health Commissioner has a statutory authority and responsibility for oversight and cross-system management of the local mental hygiene system to meet the needs of individuals and families affected by mental illness, substance use disorder and/or intellectual/developmental disability in their communities. LGU collaboration is a vital part of the work of Afghan Refugee Health Promotion. Applicants should notify the LGU(s) of their intent to apply.

5.2 Objectives and Responsibilities

Deliverables for Awardees to include:

- Outreach and engage with Afghan new arrivals
- Lead efforts to raise community awareness of mental health needs of Afghan new arrivals and the unique challenges they face
- Provide mental health services and supports directly to the target population, in a culturally sensitive and respectful manner
- Facilitate wellness focused sessions to the target population on various topics that are relevant to the needs of new arrivals
- Coordinate and provide interpretation and translation services for all activities outlined within the RFP
- Identify key organization staff to oversee and manage the services provided in this program
- Market the mental health support and wellness groups occurring to Afghan new arrivals
- Awardees will be required to maintain accurate reporting of activities and deliverables as outlined in this RFP
- It is expected that awardees will routinely submit data on progress to OMH, including outcome data. Data submission requirements and guidance will be provided by OMH

5.3 Operating Funding

Ten individual awards (as outlined in section 4.5) will be made in the amount of \$200,000 each to be spent through September 30, 2026. The OMH cannot extend contracts after this date.

New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Applicants are reminded that funding to support the operation of this program is contingent upon the continued availability of State appropriations.

6. Proposal Narrative

When submitting proposals for funding under this RFP, the narrative must address all components listed below, in the following order:

Please note that there are restrictions to the type, size and naming conventions of the files and attachments uploaded in SFS. For more information, please review the SFS Attachment Guide [Here](#). Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in attachments not being viewable to reviewers.

A proposal template is provided in the event comments and attachments section of SFS and must be used to answer the following questions. If the proposal template is not completed and submitted, the application may be disqualified. Any supporting attachments MUST be labeled specific to the question number it is associated with. Attachments that are not labeled may result in either a 0 for the question or disqualification of the application.

Within SFS there will be a provided question asking your agency to upload proof of notifying your LGU of your intent to apply for this RFP. This also must adhere to the file type, size and naming conventions listed in the SFS Attachment Guide previously referenced in this section.

6.1 LGU Notification

To receive the point for LGU notification, identified in section 4.1 Evaluation Criteria, please provide proof that LGU(s) were notified of your agency's Intent to Apply to this RFP (e.g., sent email, certified letter, etc.). A list of County Local Mental Hygiene Directors can be found [here](#).

6.2 Population

The Afghan Refugee Health Program (ARHP) aims to promote health literacy, coordinate mental health services, and wellness group activities to ASA-eligible Afghan individuals in the State.

a. Provide the location for which this proposal applies. Describe in narrative the characteristics of the population to be served including supporting data that showcases the prevalence of the target population within your catchment area. Applicants must identify the county or counties they intend to serve in their application.

b. Describe your understanding of the needs of Afghan arrivals in New York State and the ways in which your organization is best equipped to respond to their unique needs.

c. Describe approaches and/or best practice in outreach to the target population.

d. Describe approaches and/or best practices in engaging/supporting the target population.

6.3 Agency Organization & Qualifications

- a. Explain if, and how, your organization is connected to the Social Care Network(s) in your region, and how you plan to utilize them to provide health related social need support for Medicaid enrollees within the target population, specifically knowledge of culture and unique challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers
- b. Describe the organization's experience providing mental health support to new arrivals and/or asylum seekers
- c. Describe the organization's experience within the catchment area to be served
- d. Describe your agency's education and training schedule for staff members including training opportunities specifically related to providing culturally responsive mental health support
- e. Describe your organization's experience with providing groups and/or classes focused on mental wellness
- f. Describe the agency's experience and expertise in providing outreach and direct services to the target population of this RFP

6.4 Implementation

- a. Provide a realistic timeline for the project including key activities and responsible staff
- b. Describe the infrastructure in place, including key staff members, that will ensure data is collected relevant to the program and then appropriately reported to OMH
- c. Provide the organizational chart and describe the staffing plan, including leadership and supervisory structures that will oversee the activities outlined in the RFP
- d. Describe the plan for continued sustainability of the activities outlined in the RFP, including continued outreach to the target population, ongoing groups and/or classes focused on the topics outlined in this RFP, frequency of mental health support provided to the target population

6.5 Agency Performance

- a. Describe the performance management strategies that will be deployed to ensure that the subcontracted agencies/organizations meet their contractual objectives for this initiative.
- b. Describe the activities necessary to raise community awareness of mental health needs in the Afghan Refugee population in New York State.
- c. Describe the approach that will be taken to identify individuals that may be qualified and interested in participating in serving the identified population.
- d. Describe how you will develop partnerships with a wide array of mental health agencies to support linking individuals who receive a support.
- e. Describe the process that will be used to link individuals who receive support (d)

above and describe the process and criteria for offering ongoing support.

- f. Describe the process to issue and maintain oversight of the funds offered by this initiative.

6.6 Utilization Review, Reporting, and Quality Improvement

- a. Describe your agency's experience and approach to data collection and monitoring to inform service provision, outline how this information is used to inform scope, frequency, duration of interventions in your services and programs. Outline your agency's standard quality assurance activities to demonstrate how you monitor the effectiveness of your services and programs.
- b. Describe how your procedures are used to ensure ongoing quality improvement. Outline your agency's standard quality assurance activities to demonstrate how you monitor the effectiveness of your services and programs. Describe how your procedures are used to ensure ongoing quality improvement. Describe how you incorporate key community entities, consumers, and their families in evaluating your approaches to ensure they reflect considerations for cultural competence and language access. Include how this informs your equity and inclusion plan.
- c. Describe your proposed approach to self-monitor this partnership program in order to ensure ongoing quality improvement for the Afghan Refugee Program. Include how you plan to implement utilization review including at what frequency, how you plan to analyze utilization review findings, how you plan to implement recommendations and measure changes.

6.7 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Recipient Input

This section describes the commitment of the entity to advancing equity. OMH is committed to the reduction of disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for historically marginalized populations as well as centering and elevating the voice of individuals with lived experience throughout the system.

Commitment to Equity and the Reduction of Disparities in Access, Quality and Treatment Outcomes for Marginalized Populations

- a) Provide a mission statement for this project that includes information about the intent to serve individuals from marginalized/underserved populations in a culturally responsive trauma-informed way.
- b) Identify the management-level person responsible for coordinating/leading efforts to reduce disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for marginalized populations.
- c) Identify the management-level person responsible for coordinating/leading efforts to ensure incorporation of feedback from participants in services in continuous agency improvement. Information provided should include the individual's title, organizational positioning and their planned activities for coordinating these efforts).

New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

- d) Provide the diversity, inclusion, equity, cultural and linguistic competence plan for this program (as outlined in the National CLAS Standards). The plan should include information in the following domains:
- Workforce diversity (data-informed recruitment)
 - Workforce inclusion
 - Reducing disparities in access quality, and treatment outcomes in the patient population
 - Soliciting input from diverse community stakeholders, organizations and persons with lived experience
 - Efforts to adequately engage underserved foreign-born individuals and families in the project's catchment area as identified in 5.4.2.
 - How stakeholder input from service users and individuals from marginalized/underserved populations was used when creating the diversity, inclusion, equity, cultural and linguistic competence plan
 - Discuss how the plan will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Equity Structure

- e) Describe the organization's committees/workgroups that focus on reducing disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for marginalized populations (diversity, inclusion, equity, cultural/linguistic competence).
- f) Describe the organization's committees/workgroups that focus on incorporating participants of services into the agency's governance. Note - it is important to describe how membership of any such committee/workgroup includes people with lived experience and representatives from the most prevalent cultural groups to be served in this project.

Workforce Diversity and Inclusion

- g) Describe program efforts to recruit, hire and retain a) staff from the most prevalent cultural group of service users and b) staff with lived experience with mental health and receiving mental health services.

Language Access

- h) Describe efforts to meet the language access needs of the clients served by this project (limited English proficient, Deaf/HOH). This information should include the use of data to identify the most prevalent language access needs, availability of direct care staff who speak the most prevalent languages, the provision of best practice approaches to provide language access services (i.e., phone, video interpretation). Also, include information about efforts to ensure all staff with direct contact with clients are knowledgeable about using these resources. Additionally, provide information about the plan to provide documents and forms in the languages of the most prevalent cultural groups

of its service users (consent forms, releases of information, medication information, rights, and grievances procedures). This section should also include information related to: addressing other language accessibility needs (Braille, limited reading skills); service descriptions and promotional material.

Recovery Values

- i) Describe the agency or program's plan to espouse recovery and resilience-oriented values into practice.

Collaboration with Diverse Community-Based Stakeholders/Organizations

- j) For this project, describe proposed efforts to partner, collaborate with and include diverse, culturally relevant community partners in service provision and in the gathering of stakeholder input. This includes information about subcontracting entities (if applicable) and other efforts to ensure government resources reach organizations and populations that are historically economically marginalized, including those that are peer run.

6.8 Financial Assessment

- a. The proposal must include a Budget (Appendix B) in the amount of \$200,000. The indirect cost/administrative overhead rate may be up to the federal de minimis rate of 15% unless agency submitting a proposal has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). Providers must follow Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR) Ratio-Value guidance which excludes equipment/property from the direct cost base. Any travel costs included in the Budget must conform to New York State rates for travel reimbursement. Applicants should list staff by position, full-time equivalent (FTE), and salary.
- b. Describe how your agency manages its operating budget. Also, applicants must complete a Budget Narrative (Appendix B1) which should include the following:
 - a) detailed expense components that make up the total operating expenses;
 - b) the calculation or logic that supports the budgeted value of each category; and,
 - c) description of how salaries are adequate to attract and retain qualified employees.