



## **Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team**

### **Request for Proposals**

**Grant Procurements**

**(On-Line Submission Required)**

**Statewide Financial System (SFS) Identifier- MH253004**

**October 2025**

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**Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team  
RFP#MH253004  
Applicant Checklist**

**Frequent Issues/Questions:**

- Please begin working on your application in SFS **no later than 5 business days before the application due date** and **submit no later than 48 hours before the due date**. This will allow you time to troubleshoot any issues that arise that may prevent you from submitting. 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.
- All required forms/templates are available in the “Event Comments and Attachments” section of SFS. 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.
- No workplan is required at this time, if awarded, a workplan will be developed during the contract development phase.
- The “Bid Amount” box is required to be filled out in SFS. Please enter the total amount of funding your organization is requesting from NYS OMH in this box.
- New York State reserves 5-10 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 will prohibit the submission of the application in SFS.

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Please complete the following checklist prior to submission of your proposal. This checklist **SHOULD NOT** be submitted, it is for your use only.

Confirm the following:

- ☐ Your organization has met the eligibility requirements outlined in **Section 2.4 Eligible Agencies**
- ☐ Your organization is prequalified in SFS. SFS will prevent submission if your organization is a not-for-profit and not prequalified (see **Section 2.8 and 2.9 of the RFP document** for more information on Registration, Prequalification and Training Resources for SFS)
- ☐ Updates to the RFP can happen at any time, per **Section 2.6**, check the OMH website for any updates to the RFP posted by OMH.
- ☐ Notification of intent to apply was sent to local government unit and proof has been uploaded in SFS. A list of County Local Mental Hygiene Directors can be found [here](#).
- ☐ Provider Contact form completed and uploaded in SFS
- ☐ Sexual Harassment Prevention Certification Completed and uploaded in SFS
- ☐ Proposal Template completed and any applicable attachments labeled with question numbers (example: question 6.2a calls for a sample assessment tool, the assessment tool should be labeled as 6.2a and added at the end of the Proposal Template)
- ☐ Proposal Template and attachments (except budget, see next checkbox) combined into one PDF and uploaded in SFS under Q1
- ☐ Budget Template Completed (left in Excel) and uploaded in SFS under Q2
- ☐ Application submitted in SFS prior to the due date and time listed in **Section 2.2 Key Events/Timeline** (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.)

## **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 expansion of a Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) in Central or Western New York OMH regions.

The Youth ACT team serves children/youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), who are returning home from inpatient settings or residential services, at risk of entering such settings, or have not adequately engaged or responded to treatment in more traditional community-based services.

Youth ACT ensures the child, and their family have the level of support services and access to clinical professionals they require to sustain any gains made in crisis response or high-end services. Youth ACT teams deliver intensive, highly coordinated, individualized services and skilled therapeutic interventions through an integrated, multi-disciplinary team approach to better achieve success and maintain the child in the home, school, and community. The majority of services are provided by Youth ACT staff directly (not brokered) and are delivered in the home or other community-based settings.

Team interventions are focused on improving or ameliorating the significant functional impairments and severe symptomatology experienced by the child/youth due to mental illness or serious emotional disturbance (SED). Clinical and rehabilitative interventions are also focused on enhancing family functioning to foster health/well-being, stability, and re-integration for the child/youth. Services are delivered using a family-driven, youth guided and developmentally appropriate approach that comprehensively addresses the needs of the child/youth within the family, school, medical, behavioral, psychosocial, and community domains.

To address the needs of children and adolescents eligible for this comprehensive service, the Youth ACT team is multi-disciplinary with professional staff including mental health clinicians and psychiatric prescribers. Other members of the team include peer advocates (family and youth), clinical staff, and program assistants.

Youth ACT is expected to promote a myriad of interventions, including active participation of the family and other natural supports; utilization of promising practices and evidence-based treatment interventions focused on family and systems approaches; re-integration and meaningful connections within the home and community; and preparations for transition to adulthood; all as applicable to the population served. The Youth ACT team must also ensure that services are comprehensive, and principle driven.

A reliable and intensive treatment structure that is flexible and responsive in nature, is required, whereby the type and intensity of services are immediately and seamlessly

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adjusted to meet the individualized, changing needs of the child and family. Youth ACT offers support on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis.

The expansion of Youth ACT represents a commitment by the New York State Office of Mental Health to increase access to an evidence-based practice by children and youth with SED, and their families. Youth ACT programs serve as a critical component in the children's continuum of care.

OMH is expanding Youth ACT by one (1) team under this Request for Proposal (RFP). One (1) award will be made to one county, selected from the list of eligible counties outlined below.

Proposals will be ranked, and an award will be made to the applicant with the highest score. After an award is made for a given county based on score, no further awards will be made.

Team sizes for each County are identified below. Applicants cannot change the team size for the County they are applying for. Per Section 4.5 Contract Termination and Reassignment: A team awarded capacity for 36 slots may be reassigned to 28 slots if the team is unable to substantiate high utilization or maintain workforce required to fully staff the team.

| OMH Region | Target Counties | Team Size |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Central NY | Oswego          | 28        |
|            | Jefferson       | 28        |
|            | St. Lawrence    | 28        |
|            | Clinton         | 28        |
|            | Cayuga          | 28        |
| Western NY | Monroe          | 36        |
|            | Wayne           | 28        |
|            | Cattaraugus     | 28        |
|            | Livingston      | 28        |

**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

Youth ACT is designed to address the significant needs of children up to age 21 with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), who are at risk of entering, or returning home from inpatient settings or residential services or have not adequately engaged or responded to treatment in more traditional community-based settings.

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Children eligible for Youth ACT must meet the following admission criteria:

1. Child must be at least 10 years old at the time of enrollment and may be served up to age 21.
2. Have a determination of Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) defined as:
  - A child or adolescent having a designated mental illness diagnosis according to the most current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder AND has experienced functional limitations due to emotional disturbance over the past 12 months on a continuous or intermittent basis. The function limitations must be moderate in at least two of the following areas or severe in at least one of the following areas:
    - Ability to care for self (e.g. personal hygiene; obtaining and eating food; dressing; avoiding injuries); or
    - Family life (e.g. capacity to live in a family or family-like environment; relationships with parents or substitute parents, siblings and other relatives; behavior in family setting); or
    - Social relationships (e.g. establishing and maintaining friendships; interpersonal interactions with peers, neighbors and other adults; social skills; compliance with social norms; play and appropriate use of leisure time); or
    - Self-direction/self-control (e.g. ability to sustain focused attention for long enough to permit completion of age- appropriate tasks; behavioral self-control; appropriate judgment; decision-making ability); or
    - Ability to learn (e.g. school achievement and attendance; receptive and expressive language; relationships with teachers; behavior in school).
3. Have continuous high service needs that are not being met in more traditional service settings demonstrated by two or more of the following conditions:
  - Persistent severe major symptoms (e.g., affective, psychotic, suicidal or significant impulse control issues).
  - Child and/or family has not adequately engaged or responded to treatment in more traditional settings.
  - Home environment and/or community unable to provide necessary support for developmentally appropriate growth required to adequately address mental health needs.
  - High use of acute psychiatric hospitals (e.g. two hospitalizations within one

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year, or one hospitalization of 60 days or more within one year).

- High use of psychiatric emergency or crisis services (e.g. two or more uses of mobile crisis intervention or other community crisis services, two Emergency Department (ED)<sup>1</sup> visits or one crisis respite/residence admission within last 6 months.
  - Residing or being discharged from in an inpatient bed, residential treatment facility (RTF) or in a supervised community residence, or being deemed eligible for RTF, but clinically assessed to be able to live in a more independent setting if intensive community services are provided. This may also include current or recent involvement (within the last six months) in another child-serving system such as juvenile justice, child welfare, foster care, etc. wherein mental health services were provided.
  - Clinically assessed to be at immediate risk of requiring a more restrictive living situation (e.g., community residence, psychiatric hospital, or RTF) without intensive community services.
4. Child's County of Residence is within program catchment area (county) licensed to served.

## 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 Issuing Officer for this RFP is:

Amanda Szczepkowski  
New York State Office of Mental Health  
Contracts and Claims  
44 Holland Avenue, 7th Floor  
Albany, NY 12229  
[OMHLocalProcurement@omh.ny.gov](mailto:OMHLocalProcurement@omh.ny.gov)

<sup>1</sup> Emergency Department ("ED") includes both hospital emergency rooms and Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs (CPEP).

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### 2.2 Key Events/Timeline

|                                         |                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| RFP Release Date                        | <u>10/16/2025</u> |
| Questions Due                           | <u>11/04/2025</u> |
| Questions and Answers Posted on Website | <u>11/25/2025</u> |
| Proposals Due by 2:00 PM EST*           | <u>12/16/2025</u> |
| Anticipated Award Notification          | <u>01/20/2026</u> |
| Anticipated Contract Start Date         | <u>07/01/2026</u> |

\*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

Prequalification is required for all not-for-profit organizations seeking grant funding from New York State. Please see Section 2.8 and Section 2.9 for additional Prequalification Information.

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit agencies with 501(c) (3) incorporation that have experience providing mental health services to persons with serious emotional disturbance.

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](mailto:OMHLocalProcurement@omh.ny.gov) by 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.

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### **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 1.2; 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 2.8, 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 2.2 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. A workplan is not required for this RFP.**

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](mailto: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 5-10 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](mailto: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

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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 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 will prohibit the submission of the application in SFS.

### Final Submission Format

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. All attachments required with the proposal must be combined into the proposal template PDF and clearly labeled. Uploading documents that are not in PDF form (other than the budget, which must be uploaded as an excel document) will result in the disqualification of the application.

Specific questions about SFS should be referred to the SFS Help Desk at [helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov](mailto:helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov).

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### 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](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](https://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
- 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;

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- 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 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 calendar 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

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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 for a five-year term. OMH reserves the right to modify the first period of the contract to coincide with the applicable fiscal period. 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 contractors 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

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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

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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**

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 and 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.

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### 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 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:

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| Technical Evaluation                                      | Points     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 6.1 Notification of LGUs                                  | 1          |
| 6.2 Population                                            | 10         |
| 6.3 Description of Program                                | 25         |
| 6.4 Implementation                                        | 20         |
| 6.5 Agency Performance                                    | 4          |
| 6.6 Utilization Review, Reporting and Quality Improvement | 10         |
| 6.7 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Recipient Input      | 10         |
| 6.8. Financial Assessment                                 | 20         |
| <b>Total Proposal Points</b>                              | <b>100</b> |

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 Description of Program (Section 6.3) of the Proposal Narrative will be ranked higher.

### 4.3 Process for Awarding Contracts

#### Initial Awards and Allocations

Proposals will be ranked, and one (1) award made to the applicant with the highest score to assume the operation of a Youth ACT Team.

#### **4.4 Contract Termination and Reassignment**

There are a number of factors that may result in the contract being reassigned. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to meet start-up milestones, failure to maintain staffing and/or program model, failure to fill slots when referrals are available, excluding referrals excessively or based on a history of poor engagement in community services, or poor performance outcomes. A team awarded capacity for 36 slots may be reassigned to 28 slots if the team is unable to substantiate high utilization or maintain workforce required to fully staff the team. A contractor will be provided notification if there is need for reassignment.

To reassign the contract, OMH will go to the next highest ranked proposal. If there are no agencies left with a passing score, OMH will go to the top of the list and work its way down the list to reassign the contract.

#### **4.5 Award Notification**

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.

### **5. Scope of Work**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

One (1) award will be made through this RFP. Youth ACT team start-up will include OMH involvement to provide support around the development of the team. The team will start based on OMH's determination of readiness. Monthly calls and/or meetings will be held with the Youth ACT Team awardee.

The selected agencies will establish the Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team according to the [Youth ACT Program Guidelines and Part 508 regulations](#).

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 Youth ACT. Applicants should notify the LGU(s) of their intent to apply.

#### **5.2 Objectives and Responsibilities**

The awarded vendor(s) will be expected to meet the objectives and responsibilities below. These will form the basis for the scope of work and contract deliverables when an award is made.

- A. Youth ACT Providers will follow the Youth ACT model, delivering services that comprehensively address the needs of the child/youth within the family, school, medical, behavioral, psychosocial, and community domains. Youth ACT providers will receive referrals from C-SPOA and have timely admissions.

Youth ACT providers will have the capacity to serve either 28 or 36 children and

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families in each team, as identified in Section 1.1 and the capacity for maintaining required staffing levels.

Youth ACT providers must adhere to the fidelity of the Youth ACT Team model, including:

- Building a multi-disciplinary team providing coordinated services from a Youth ACT framework, with mental health clinicians including psychiatric prescribers, family/youth peer advocates, clinical staff, and a program assistant. Based on their respective areas of expertise, the team members will collaborate to deliver integrated services of the individual's choice, assist in making progress towards goals, and adjust services over time to meet the individual's changing needs and goals. The Youth ACT provider should have all staff cross trained for all specialty staffing areas. The ACT provider will ensure all staff on an ACT team must have experience in providing direct services related to the treatment with families and children with serious emotional disturbance.
- Delivering comprehensive and flexible treatment, support, and rehabilitation services to children/youth in their natural living settings rather than in hospital or clinic settings. This means that interventions and skills training will be carried out at the locations where children/youth live, work, and socialize, and where support is needed.
- Demonstrating a clear understanding of service needs of children/youth with SED and their families, including through evaluation with appropriate tools.
- Providing services that are tailored to meet the individual's specific needs by implementing key components of evidence-based practices for children and families. These may be derived from models such as Motivational Interviewing, Family therapy/Family System approaches, cognitive and behavioral Interventions, and trauma-informed care, etc., individualized to the child and family's needs.
- Assessing regularly for risk through the consistent use of standardized tools to screen, assess and monitor the level of risk severity. Screening for risk indicators within the child/youth and family should occur throughout the process of service delivery by the Youth ACT team to determine if/when assessment of risk is needed.
- Maintaining the organizational capacity to ensure small caseloads and continuity of care.
- Providing emergency and crisis intervention services on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis, as outlined in the Youth ACT guidelines.

Youth ACT providers must adhere to the team protocols as outlined in the [Youth ACT Program Guidelines](#) including:

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- Conduct at least six face-to-face contacts per month, three of which may be collaterals.
  - Collaborate and be closely involved in hospital admissions and hospital discharges to ensure continuity and coordination of services, and to be a support and advocate for recipients.
  - Have team meetings at least 4 times a week to review the status of each individual.
  - Maintain communication boards, logs and/or other communication methods required for team coordination.
- B. Programs will be required to maintain accurate reporting and case records according to Regulation and Program Guidance.
- C. OMH providers are expected to ensure continuous quality improvement of services, including regular monitoring and evaluation of outcomes. To support these efforts, it is expected that providers have a quality, supervisory, operational and IT / data infrastructure to routinely self-monitor and ensure ongoing quality improvement of services, including analyzing utilization review findings and recommendations.
- D. It is also expected that providers will routinely submit data to OMH, including client-identified data, quality and program data. Data submission requirements and guidance will be provided by OMH.

### **5.3 Implementation**

To provide Youth ACT the agency will be required to complete a Prior Approval Review (PAR) application to become licensed and receive an official operating certificate.

Under licensure, agencies will be required to adhere to all relevant regulations directing the ACT model program, The ACT program is licensed under 14CRR-NY 508. Licensed programs must also adhere to all relevant State mental health laws, such as Part 524 for incident reporting requirements.

- Licensed programs are monitored and overseen by the Office of Mental Health. Providers with identified challenges in programmatic compliance or quality of care issues are required to submit Performance Improvement plans or Corrective Action plans to remedy identified deficits; and if appropriate can be placed on enhanced monitoring status. In order for licenses to be renewed, providers must demonstrate adherence to programmatic and regulatory requirements, based on case record reviews and established monitoring protocols.

Youth ACT providers will provide an adequate level of professional staffing to perform the required work. Youth ACT Providers will hire core staff: Psychiatrist/Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Team Leader, Mental Health Professional, Clinical Staff, and Program Assistant as outlined in the Youth ACT Program Guidance. Youth ACT

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Providers will hire all staff that have the appropriate qualifications to meet the needs of the target population and Youth ACT model. Youth ACT Providers will have office space that is appropriately located, and adequately appointed to comply with state licensing standards by the program start date.

Staff should be selected consistent with the Youth ACT guiding principles and experience in delivering the Youth ACT services clinical staff should have demonstrated competencies in screening and assessment, clinical approaches/treatment (that may include evidence-based practices), family therapy/family system approaches, and clinical documentation.

- All staff will demonstrate basic core competencies in designated areas of practice, including the Assertive Community Treatment core processes, system of care/multi-system work, family psychoeducation and motivational interviewing.
- The agency ensures that the Youth ACT staff receives appropriate and ongoing professional training.
- Agencies will arrange training for their staff, in collaboration with the Youth ACT Technical Assistance center or other OMH resources, as required as an OMH licensed ACT program. Core trainings will be completed within specified time frames.

Youth ACT Providers will maintain a plan for regular supervision of all staff members, including the Team Leader.

### **5.4 Utilization Review, Reporting and Quality Improvement**

Youth ACT Providers must comply with all OMH fiscal reporting requirements as outlined in the [“Aid to Localities Spending Plan Guidelines.”](#)

Youth ACT Providers will be required to maintain accurate reporting of all admissions, baseline and follow-up assessments, and discharges through OMH’s Child and Adult Integrated Reporting System (CAIRS) and adhere to any requirements OMH may subsequently develop.

Youth ACT teams will be required to participate in all research and evaluation projects undertaken by OMH.

Youth ACT teams will comply with the provisions governing the reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment, as set forth in sections 413-416 and 418 of the Social Services Law.

Youth ACT teams must adhere to the criminal background check requirements under the Justice Center. Youth ACT teams must adhere to all incident reporting requirements, including reporting incidents in the NYS OMH Incident Management Reporting System (NIMRS) immediately upon discovery of the incident.

Youth ACT Providers will have a systemic approach for self-monitoring and ensuring ongoing quality improvement for the Youth ACT team, including analyzing utilization

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review findings and recommendations. This information should be used to measure recipient achievement of recovery goals, performance around length of stays, barriers to treatment, staffing, transitions, etc., and will inform the team's overall quality improvement plan. Youth ACT Providers will be required to participate in any OMH or utilization management process and will participate in utilization management activities according to the terms of contracts with Managed Care Organizations. Additionally, teams will utilize technical assistance from these agencies and the ACT Institute when appropriate.

### 5.5 Operating Funding

Start-up funds will be allocated in a lump sum at beginning of a separate fixed term contract for a total of \$450,000.

Youth ACT providers will be funded through Medicaid and net deficit funding.

**Please note: All Slot allocations are pending CMS approval.**

The annual expected Medicaid revenue per team is as follows:

|                      |         |           |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| <b>36 Slot Team:</b> | Upstate | \$678,205 |
| <b>28 Slot Team:</b> | Upstate | \$543,452 |

Available annual net deficit funding per team is as follows:

**36 Slot Team:** Upstate \$452,137 and receive service dollars in the amount of \$27,217. Appropriate uses of these funds are outlined in Service Dollar Guidance

**28 Slot Team:** Upstate \$362,301 and receive service dollars in the amount of \$ 27,217. Appropriate uses of these funds are outlined in Service Dollar Guidance

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

## 6. Proposal Narrative

**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. Any supporting attachments MUST be included in the upload of the proposal template as one continuous PDF document AND be labeled specific to the question number it is associated with. **Proposals/applications not submitted as described (other than the budget which must be uploaded in excel format) will result in disqualification of the application.**

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

**6.1 Notification of LGUs**

- a. 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**

- b. Describe your understanding of the service needs of children/youth with SED, and their families, and your ability to coordinate services internally and externally. Include clinical approaches and/or best practice in treatment and care children/youth with SED, and their families, who are at risk of institutional level of care and require intensive intervention in order to avoid high end services or facilitate and support a successful transition back to their community.
- c. Describe your experiences in delivering services that are family- driven, youth guided, strength based and developmentally appropriate. Outline how you operationally integrate these principles into practice when you provide services to children and their families. Include your experience in engaging children/youth and their families that have not adequately engaged or responded to treatment in more traditional settings.

**6.3 Description of Program**

- a. Identify the County you are applying to serve. Include your plans for how you will ensure workforce capacity to support full staffing of your team in accordance with the model and 24/7 access to required emergency/crisis services.
- b. Describe how you will deliver the Youth ACT services that comprehensively address the needs of the child/youth across multiple life domains, including within the family, school, medical, behavioral, psychosocial, and community domains.
- c. Describe the Youth ACT team's approaches or tools that will be used to conduct individual assessments and the development of a person-centered plan of care. Including the process of identifying an individual's behavioral strengths, barriers to achieving goals, service needs, and how identified interventions are directly tied to needs.
- d. Describe your experience and ability to provide integrated, team-oriented, family-based approaches to treatment, to the age range of the youth identified. Include your capacity to align and coordinate multiple treatment/service interventions and service providers to the goals outlined in a treatment plan.
- e. Describe the approach that will be used to ensure the successful transition of children/youth off the Youth ACT team to other community-based services. Describe discharge criteria, policies and procedures to ensure collaboration with community-based providers and processes for maintaining continuity of care.

**6.4 Implementation**

- a. Describe how the agency will create a physical space that supports the Youth ACT team(s) and its work and information about other supports the agency will provide for the Youth ACT team relative to equipment and administrative oversight.
  - i. Complete the Physical Plant document in SFS under the Event Comments and Attachments Page and provide as part of response to this question.
- b. Provide Youth ACT staffing plan. Complete the Staffing document in SFS under the Event Comments and Attachment Page and provide as part of response to this question.
  - i. Include a description of the roles and responsibilities of each staff member. Indicate the specific skills and level of experience expected of each staff member. Detail how you will meet the staffing requirements according to the Youth ACT Program Guidelines.
- c. Describe your marketing approach and demonstrate how your organizational capacity to recruit, retain, train, and support an adequate level of professional and appropriately qualified staff to carry out programmatic duties.
- d. Demonstrate how you will ensure that staff gain competencies in screening and assessment, System of care; multi-systems approaches to involve the active coordination of care of the child/youth and family with multidisciplinary providers, agencies, community resources and supports, family therapy/family systems approaches consistent with the range of developmental stages of the children/youth to be served and family psychoeducation and treatment for trauma.
- e. Describe how you plan to ensure close collaboration with the Local Government Unit (LGU) to facilitate care for individuals served by Youth ACT in the county to be served, including any collaboration to date on this proposal.

**6.5 Agency Performance**

- a. Provide a brief summary of your agency, the services for which you are licensed and provide. Outline how these services demonstrate your experience and qualifications for operating a Youth ACT program. Include the county you are proposing to serve in your application.
- b. Describe your organizational structure and administrative and supervisory support for clinical mental health and/or children's services. Include your governing body, and any advisory body, structure that supports your organization and effective service provision.

**6.6 Utilization Review, Reporting, and Quality Improvement**

- a. Describe your agencies' experience and approach to data collection and monitoring to inform service provision, including determining if children are receiving adequate services to meet their needs. Outline how this information is used to inform scope, frequency, duration of interventions in your services and programs.

- b. 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.
- c. Describe your proposed approach to self-monitor this program in order to ensure ongoing quality improvement for the Youth ACT team. 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. Teams are required to implement OMH-provided resources such as fidelity tools and monitoring dashboards as they are developed.

#### **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).
- 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.
  - How stakeholder input from service users and individuals from

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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/ASL). 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 5-year Budget (Appendix B). The budget template is located in SFS under the Event Comments and Attachments page. Please fill out the budget template using the team size funding amounts located in section 5.5 for the applicable team size. Please use the chart located in section 1.1 to determine your team size based on what county you are applying for. Refer to Section 5.5 for Net Deficit funding that is available annually. Note that administrative costs cannot be more than 15%. 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.

Providers must follow Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR) Ratio-Value guidance which excludes equipment/property from the direct cost base. Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements (NICRA) are not allowable.

- b. Describe how your agency manages its operating budget. Please include the following:
- detailed expense components that make up the total operating expenses;
  - the calculation or logic that supports the budgeted value of each category; and,
  - description of how salaries are adequate to attract and retain qualified employees.