



Delivering Sources of Strength OMH Suicide Prevention Center of New York

RFP#MH263036

Questions & Answers

Q1. The proposed program design in the RFP requires the SOS 3-year program cycle to be implemented across 5 new schools each year over the grant's 5-year period. This would entail costs well beyond the 5-year grant period since schools beginning in Years 4 and 5 of the grant, would only complete the 3-year program cycle in Year 6 and 7. Could you clarify whether the grant is intended to cover the full recurring cost of the program cycle in Years 6 and 7 — after the initial grant period ends — or whether the expectation is for grantees to secure alternative funding to sustain the program at that point?

A1. The grant is intended to cover current year 1 and 2 school fees, as well as costs for implementing 5 new schools annually during the 5-year award. Licensing fees in years 2 and 3 that come due after the 5-year award will be covered by future funding.

Q2. Is the awardee required to obtain and implement the program into five new schools per year for five years.

A2. Yes. The awardee will obtain the Sources program by having nationally certified trainer(s) to implement the model. In addition, the awardee will then implement the program by purchasing Sources licensing fees per school for 3 years using this award and provide training and technical assistance to those schools.

Q3. Will the awardee be penalized if they don't obtain 5 new schools each year.

A3. The awardee will be required to onboard 5 schools for that year. NYS OMH will assist in identifying schools.

Q4. Will funding be reduced or required to be reimbursed if five new schools are not obtained each year.

A4. Yes, the award requirement is to implement 5 new schools annually.

Q5. In the fifth year of the contract are you still required to provide support for the remaining two years (noting the program is intended to be in the school for three years before off-boarding).

A5. No, we would anticipate that support coming from future funding. The current awardee would be supporting schools who are currently year 1 or 2 in their implementation.

Q6. Is the awardee provided the Sources of Strength program for free.

A6. No. The purpose of this procurement is to award funding to cover Sources of Strength training and implementation (trainer training, licensing fees, technical assistance and school training).

Q7. Is there a cost for the schools to utilize the Sources of Strength program format.

A7. There is an annual licensing fee that this award will cover for new schools adopting Sources for the first 3 years. Following that schools take on the licensing fee.



Q8. Is the awardee RFP funding intended to offset the cost of using the Sources of Strength program.

A8. The funding should cover the awardee expenses related to becoming certified Sources of Strength trainer(s), the first 3 years of licensing fees per school (including those that are currently in year 1 and 2 implementation), expenses for trainings delivered to 5 new schools annually (adult advisor and peer leader trainings), data submission and implementation coordination with NYS OMH.

Q9. What is the maximum number of agency staff that can be trained as a trainer to deliver Sources of Strength.

A9. The awardee will decide the number of individuals it will procure training for based on a plan for implementation and budget.

Q10. Is there a cost to be trained as a trainer of Sources of Strength.

A10. Yes. Trainers must be trained and certified by Sources of Strength.

Q11. Is the Sources of Strength RFP only geared towards implementing in grades 9-12.

A11. No, grades 7-12.

Q12. Who pays the Sources of Strength annual school licensing fee?

A12. The awardee for a new school's first 3 years of implementation.

Q13. How many adult advisors and peer leaders does OMH anticipate per school?

A13. This depends on the size of the school. Sources of Strength recommends training 6% to 12% of the total student population as Peer Leaders (peer advisors/leaders), guided by an adult-to-student ratio of about 1:10 (or roughly 2 to 5 adult advisors for a team of 10 to 50 peer leaders depending on school size).

Q14. How much ongoing technical assistance is expected per school?

A14. This is variable and as needed.

Q15. Does "statewide" mean the awardee is expected to recruit schools throughout every region of NYS, or can recruitment be concentrated geographically?

A15. It is the expectation that schools are recruited throughout the state excluding NYC public schools (which is implementing separately). NYS OMH will collaborate and assist with recruitment.

Q16. How much of the ongoing technical assistance is expected to be in-person versus virtual?

A16. Virtual technical assistance is fine, but in-person is encouraged.

Q17. What exactly does OMH mean by maintaining "active implementation" for three years?

A17. Active implementation means that a school has an active Sources of Strength program, including maintaining adult advisor and peer leader trainings as required by Sources of Strength standards as well as implementing wellness campaigns and activities in their school. For the awardee active implementation means engaging with schools, offering trainings and technical assistance and support.



Q18. What outcome measures will determine whether the program is successful?

A18. 5 new schools onboarded annually, sustained engagement and support of the new schools, number of schools who sustain the program during funding and post-funding.

Q19. What costs associated with Sources of Strength certification/training/licensing are expected to come out of the \$160,226?

A19. All

Q20. We are a Maryland-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit behavioral health and crisis management organization. However, we administer services across the country through our 988 call center services. Based on a recent contract award, we are seeking to establish a presence in NY as many new employees will be located there. Is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized in another state eligible to apply if, prior to the proposal deadline, it is registered/qualified to conduct business in New York State and has established an operating location in New York State? Kindly provide specifics what OMH considers 'located and doing business in New York State' for purposes of Section 2.4. For example, is a lease agreement needed? Are there minimum activities that constitute "doing business?" Any clarity is greatly appreciated.

A20. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized in another state is eligible if they are able to provide in-person trainings and technical assistance to schools in NYS in a timely manner.

Q21. Could you clarify whether the available funding is intended to be awarded to one organization that would then coordinate or subcontract implementation across the state, or whether OMH anticipates making multiple awards to organizations serving different areas or regions of New York State? If the funding will be divided among multiple awardees, could you also clarify how those geographic regions would be determined? Specifically, will OMH define the regions as part of the award process, or would selected organizations be responsible for proposing or determining the geographic areas they would serve?

A21. The one award would cover the entire state.

Q22. Is the state currently funding Sources of Strength programming through other grants? If so, how many organizations currently have contracts to provide this service, and how many secondary schools are currently being supported?

A22. Sources of Strength has been implemented in NYS through both grant and non-grant funding sources and by multiple providers. The number of schools currently being supported follows the same rubric described in this RFP and Q and A. Schools are supported for the first 3 years of implementation through licensing fees, training and technical assistance. Technical assistance is offered to all schools who have implemented as requested.

Q23. In section 1.1 implementation of Sources of Strength is defined as "high schools (9-12);" however, in the rest of the document the program is stated as needing to be implemented for "secondary schools" which typically cover grades 7-12, please confirm whether the target population is for the full scope of secondary schools, or specifically for high school aged youth.

A23. The target population is secondary schools (7-12).



Q24. In Proposal Narrative section, 6.2.a, it is stated that the relationship with schools includes, "school licensing (annual fee per year per school)." Is it the expectation that school licensing fees are factored into the proposed annual program budget, or that the school is fiscally responsible for the licensing fees with organization being responsible for facilitating the connection between Sources of Strength and schools for payments?

A24. Licensing fees shall be covered by the awardee for the first 3 years of new school implementation and includes those schools who are currently in year 1 and year 2.

Q25. While it is understood that the grant is to be executed state-wide, is there any expectation of geographic diversity within the schools in which the program is to be implemented? If so, please define the expectation.

A25. The schools shall be statewide with the exception of NYC public schools who are implementing separately.