

**Substance Abuse Prevention Services Re-Bid
Frequently Asked Questions
August 9, 2011**

What changes were made to the provision of addiction prevention services in the state's FY'12 budget?

The FY'12 budget included language allowing the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to re-bid \$3.3 million in prevention funding that was previously provided through the New Jersey Prevention Network and its associated statewide providers.

Why is the Division re-bidding the funding the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) currently receives for the resource centers?

The decision to re-bid prevention funding has been under consideration by the Division for some time. It also is supported by findings and recommendations from two separate reviews of the addictions services prevention system.

In March, 2009, through an Independent Accountants Non-Audit Report of a Review of Grant Funds, DMHAS was made aware that equal opportunity should be granted to agencies for sub-grants, as all sub-grants should be granted on the basis of most qualified provider.

In addition, based upon the New Jersey Substance Abuse Prevention and Synar System Review Report received in June 2010, (<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/das/news/reports/other/NJSysRev.pdf>), DMHAS was directed by its federal funder, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to allocate a greater percentage of its prevention contracts to the delivery of environmental strategies. In the same review DMHAS was encouraged to utilize the Strategic Prevention Framework to provide a foundation and direction for systems development.

What are environmental strategies?

Environmental strategies are programs and initiatives focused on changing aspects of the environment that contribute to the use of alcohol and other drugs. Specifically, environmental strategies aim to decrease the social and health consequences of substance abuse by limiting access to substances and changing social norms that are accepting and permissive of substance abuse. They can change public laws, policies and practices to create environments that decrease the probability of substance abuse.

What is the Request for Proposal (RFP) being issued?

There are two prevention-specific RFPs being issued. One opportunity is entitled, "Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Support for Regional Prevention Coalitions." The other is entitled "Funding for Regional Coalitions to Utilize Environmental Strategies to Achieve Population-Level Change". They can be accessed at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfpfi/>

Who is eligible to apply for the RFPs?

Eligibility criteria are delineated in each RFP. It is important to note that any of NJPN's current affiliate agencies that meet the RFP standards are eligible to submit applications for funding.

What other prevention funding do you have?

DMHAS provides support through several contracts for prevention services to children, adolescents, adults, and families delivered by community-based organizations (many of which are current NJPN affiliate agencies) in all 21 New Jersey counties. SPF-SIG funding also is provided.

Did DMHAS make these prevention funding changes unilaterally?

No. Last fall DMHAS embarked on a strategic planning process along with 24 State government partners and community stakeholders to identify state level priorities for prevention.

In October 2010 the preliminary work of the committee began, which provided materials and information for the draft of the strategic plan, completed in March 2011. The draft is scheduled to be circulated among planning team members for review in August, concurrent with the release of the RFPs.

Why didn't the Planning Committee get the strategic plan draft prior to the release of the RFPs?

The reason for releasing the strategic plan and RFPs in a coordinated fashion was to assure that individuals or organizations that participated in the strategic planning process would not have advance notice of DMHAS' funding priorities and therefore be restricted from submitting an application to the RFP.

What is a regional coalition and what partners must be included?

For purposes of this project, a regional prevention coalition is an association of organizations that collaborate in the delivery of environmental strategies to address and reduce substance misuse and abuse in a specific geographical area. Specifically, a regional coalition is:

- A nonprofit legal entity, aimed at serving the public good in its region through the improvement of health that occurs as a result of the decrease in substance misuse and abuse in the region.
- A standing organization rather than a series of projects.
- Limited to the regional geographical area defined by DMHAS. The local nature of coalitions maximizes the ability of its member organizations to identify with one another, to come together around issues, and, when necessary, to challenge each other as peers.
- Organized around a defined and coordinated program of action for delivering prevention programming in its region.
- Made up of voluntary members who are representative of sectors or organizations, not persons. Coalitions **must** include representation from the sectors listed below:
 1. Youth (must be under the age of 18)
 2. Parents
 3. Business
 4. Media
 5. School
 6. Youth-serving organization
 7. Law Enforcement
 8. Religious/Fraternal organization
 9. Civic/Volunteer group
 10. Healthcare Field (doctor, nurse, dentist, pharmacists, etc.)
 11. State/Local/Tribal Government agency with expertise in substance abuse (County Alcohol and Drug Director and the Municipal Alliance Coordinator)
 12. Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse - including Municipal Alliances within the region

How did the Division determine the regions?

DMHAS has identified seventeen coalition regions in New Jersey. These regions were selected based on the "Prevention Needs Assessment Using Social Indicators: State of New Jersey Substance Abuse Prevention County Level Needs Assessment, 2008". The "Prevention Needs Assessment" utilized archival data of social indicators to develop composite indices of risks to estimate the need for prevention services among New Jersey's twenty one counties. Criteria including population, substance abuse treatment admissions and rates within the region as well as prevalence of alcohol and prescription drug misuse among middle and high-school students were also considered

in identifying the seventeen regions. Additional criteria used to determine the regions included that:

- Each region must be comprised of at least one county
- Each region must have reported a minimum of 2000 treatment admissions (according to the latest available data) for the previous year

Will DMHAS provide regional data to support the assessment process?

The Coalitions will use data provided by DMHAS to assess their region's substance abuse-related problems. The coalition will use the data to identify the magnitude of the problem to be addressed, where the problem is greatest, and any risk and protective factors associated with the problem. Coalitions will also assess community assets and resources, gaps in services and readiness to act within capacity.

How can I learn more about these funding opportunities?

To learn more about both RFPs, please go to the DHS website. If you are interested in applying you must attend the Mandatory Bidders' Conference/Training and Technical Assistance Meeting being held on Friday, August 19, 2011 from 9:00am -5:00pm at the Hamilton Technology Center Auditorium located at 1200 Negron Drive in Hamilton, NJ. To register for the conference/meeting send email to helen.staton@dhs.state.nj.us.

Link to download RFP for the training and technical assistance:

[http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/Coalition%20TA%20RFP%208-8-11final%20\(3\).doc](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/Coalition%20TA%20RFP%208-8-11final%20(3).doc)

Link to download RFP for the coalitions:

[http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/Coalition%20RFP%208-8-11final\(4\).doc](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/Coalition%20RFP%208-8-11final(4).doc)