

Sandy Funding Criteria Worksheet

State Department:
NJ Department of Children and Families
Name of Expenditure Program:
Early Childhood- Expansion of Training for Sandy Impact
Amount:
\$720,000

Overview:

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) recognizes that the key to promoting positive development in young children following a disaster is to help caregivers understand the impacts of disaster on young children. Effective Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) education has been shown to improve maternal and child health, family functioning and stability, child /family well-being and prevent child neglect and abuse.

DCF will allocate \$720,000 over two years to Montclair State University for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate (IECMH) professional education/training and coaching to build local staff knowledge and capacity to implement evidence-based practices/curricula that support positive social-emotional well-being and address the early childhood mental health needs of infants/young children and their families in community settings. The goal is to assist over 10,000 children positively cope with the stress of the disaster and to promote positive early childhood development that is not negatively impacted by the effects of the disaster. Through this contract, DCF expects to fund a training network led by the Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University, since they are the only NJ State University with a specialty in infant/early childhood mental health. This component will target ten (10) affected counties to integrate evidence-based practices/curricula into community settings—e.g. childcare, preschools, elementary schools and other community settings—that work directly with infants/young children to promote their social-emotional health and development, and strengthen caregiver and parents/family relationships.

Allocation of a total of \$720,000 (total of \$360,000 per year) to the Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University to conduct local/regional I/ECMH training sessions, provide coaching, and facilitate the integration of evidence-based practices/curricula into community settings.

Federal Department of Origin:

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U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services – The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, (P. L. 113-2); “Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds” to address necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care facilities, and other social services facilities.

Federal Requirements / Restrictions:

Funds to be totally expended by September 30, 2015.

Also subject to Integrity Oversight monitoring via Assembly Bill A60 (A-60)(P.L.2013,c.37).

Additional State regulations related to Governor Christie's Executive Order 125, as well as all applicable federal and state regulations for Procurement and Grants Management

Selection Standards:

Montclair is a State University with expertise in this area. Under current procurement rules DCF is permitted to contract directly with Montclair.

Eligibility Standards:

To maximize the impact of these time-limited funds, and to ensure sustainability beyond the two-year grant period, the priority for this funding will be on training and staff development to promote the integration of best practices in addressing the social-emotional support and mental health needs of infants, young children, and their families in the ten impacted counties/communities. Training and staff development shall occur in the 10 most impacted counties.

Other Notes:

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