

**DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENT
OY '24
CULTURAL COMPETENCY PLAN**

All DMHAS funded behavioral healthcare agencies are required to have a written cultural competency plan and to adhere to Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in their delivery of services.

The CLAS standards “provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs.” As such, each agency’s service delivery must include culturally and linguistically appropriate goals, policies, and management accountability and infuse them throughout the organization’s planning and operations.

To assist agencies with preparing and maintaining cultural competency plans, DMHAS contracts with two technical assistance centers.

For the Northern Region (Sussex, Warren, Morris, Passaic, Bergen, Hunterdon, Somerset, Essex and Hudson counties), please contact Jayme Ganey, CultureConnections, Senior Program Manager, jganey@familyconnectionsni.org, Direct: 973-323-3454; Mobile: 973-507-6512

For the Southern Region (Union, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Cape May, Atlantic, Salem, and Gloucester counties), please contact Dr. June DePonte Sernak, Statewide Diversity Consultant, Center for Family Services, june.depontesernak@centerffs.org; Phone: 609-569-0239 x62126; 609-707-4070 (cell)

Agencies that have not previously submitted a cultural competency plan have until October 1, 2023 to fulfill this requirement. Please note existing cultural competency plans should be minimally updated at least once per year by the end of the contract fiscal year. **Cultural competency plans from all counties will be submitted for review to:**

Dr. June DePonte Sernak, Statewide Diversity Consultant, Center for Family Services
june.depontesernak@centerffs.org; Phone: 609-569-0239 x62126; 609-707-4070 (cell)

NOTE: Failure to develop and maintain an agency cultural competence plan may result in a reduction of contract funds pending a corrective action plan to address this requirement.