

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

Regional Legal Services for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

TAKE NOTICE that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, 34.5 and 34.6, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) hereby announces the availability of the grant program funds described herein.

Program Name: Regional Legal Services for Individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

Purpose: This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for legal and navigation services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD). Services will help address legal and social issues that present as barriers to accessing needed services (medical, behavioral health, housing, insurance, entitlements, etc.) for individuals with a substance use disorder and to reduce the burden of outstanding legal issues that negatively impact an individual's recovery process and ability to successfully live in the community of their choosing. The goal is to avoid incarceration whenever safely possible and to address any social inequities from a legal perspective. DMHAS plans to fund four regional legal services providers that will cover regions of the state. It is anticipated that all 21 counties in the state will be served through this initiative.

In this model, attorneys along with navigators will serve individuals who have a SUD, individuals who use drugs and individuals who are in recovery. Grant awards will be made available to regional legal services providers to ensure that clients receive professional services for destabilizing co-occurring civil legal issues, such as landlord-tenant disputes, public entitlements, health insurance, debt collection, family law matters and other civil matters. Attorneys may serve as counsel in municipal court proceedings but not in Superior Court proceedings. Individuals may self-refer or may be referred by a service program. Priority referrals will come from DMHAS funded programs and for individuals with low income.

Up to four million dollars (\$4,000,000) will be awarded to support four (4) regional legal service contracts. This will enable the legal service providers to hire attorneys and navigators and will cover any administrative costs (office space, computers, equipment, supplies, etc...) to support their work. DMHAS intends to make one award up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for each of the following regions.

- **Region 1:** Passaic, Bergen, Morris, Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties

- **Region 2:** Hudson, Essex, Union and Somerset Counties
- **Region 3:** Burlington, Middlesex, Mercer and Monmouth Counties
- **Region 4:** Ocean, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May Counties

This RFP seeks to award contracts to regional legal services providers to support eligible individuals. These individuals must have an SUD and are either currently using substances or in recovery. No individual shall be denied full access to legal or navigation services due to the use of legitimately prescribed medications or actively using illicit or other drugs. It is anticipated that each awarded regional legal services provider will serve at least 500 individuals per year with a total of at least 2,000 individuals per year for this initiative.

Available Funding Amount: Total annualized funding is \$4,000,000, subject to New Jersey's Opioid Settlement State appropriations.

Who Can Apply/Bidder Qualifications: To be eligible for consideration for this RFP, the bidder must satisfy the following requirements:

1. The bidder may be a non-profit or for-profit entity or governmental entity;
2. The bidder must employ licensed attorneys who can practice law in the state of NJ and must have or agree to put in place affiliation agreements with Department of Health (DOH) licensed SUD treatment provider agencies and recovery support programs in the awarded region.
3. For a bidder that has a contract with DMHAS in place when this RFP is issued, that bidder must have all outstanding Plans of Correction for deficiencies submitted to DMHAS for approval prior to proposal submission;
4. The bidder must be fiscally viable based upon an assessment of the bidder's audited financial statements. If a bidder is determined, in DMHAS' sole discretion, to be insolvent or to present insolvency within the twelve (12) months after bid submission, DMHAS will deem the proposal ineligible for contract award;
5. The bidder must not appear on the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report¹ or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds;
6. Pursuant to DHS Contract Policy and Information Manual Policy Circular 8.05, the bidder shall not have a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict, between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. Persons in a position of trust include Provider Agency staff members, officers and Governing Board Members. A bidder must have written Conflict of Interest policies and procedures that satisfy the requirements of P8.05, thereby ensuring that paid Board members do not participate in transactions except as expressly provided in the P8.05 circular; and
7. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, a for-profit bidder and each proposed subcontractor must have a valid Business Registration Certificate on file with the Division of

¹ <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/olra/contracting/policy/>

Revenue. This statutory requirement does not apply to non-profit organizations, private colleges and universities, or state and municipal agencies.

Proposal Procedure: Effective June 10, 2025, the Request for Proposal (RFP) is available at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/>. A proposal must be submitted that comports with the RFP requirements and instructions.

Proposal Receiving Office: Helen Staton
Department of Human Services
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
PO Box 362
Trenton, NJ 08625-0362

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. ET on July 22, 2025.

Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

Date