

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

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

#### Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelters

**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:** Open Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Homeless Shelters

**Purpose:** This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to increase access to Low Threshold medication assisted treatment and other ancillary services for individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD) through programming available at homeless shelters that are licensed by **New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Bureau of Rooming and Boarding House Standards and outlined in state regulation N.J.A.C. 5:1**. Successful bidder shall develop the capacity to provide medication and support services for individuals who reside or drop in at homeless shelters.

The guiding principles of Low Threshold medication include the following and services must adhere to these principles:

- a. Increased Access through same-day entry and medication,
- b. Harm Reduction approach with education, naloxone, etc. and with no requirements for counseling,
- c. Wide availability and meeting individuals "where they are" using mobile outreach and/or telehealth, and
- d. Flexibility in not having requirements for in-person appointments, psychosocial counseling, meeting attendance, or drug testing.

The successful bidder to this RFP shall initiate medication for SUD and maintain the individual on that medication or transition the individual to a community provider for continued treatment, including, but not limited to: an Office Based Addictions Treatment (OBAT) provider or licensed treatment provider that can administer buprenorphine and other medications for SUD, as well as deliver the appropriate level of counseling, or other appropriate support service if the individual is willing to engage in this level of service. There shall be no gaps in medication, caused by the provider or providers, for individuals served in this program. It is expected that providers shall use funds for all of the following: (1) identify and designate a Champion within the homeless shelter who shall lead the shelter's efforts to provide medication for SUD; (2) initiate same-day medications; (3) contract or employ staff with the credentials to prescribe medications via low threshold

services; (4) contract or employ care coordinators/case managers, and peers, to connect and engage patients in treatment and social services and to assist patients with care transitions; (5) create a welcoming and non-stigmatizing atmosphere for individuals seeking medications; (6) provide naloxone as an overdose prevention medication , (7) connect individuals to an affiliated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for the treatment of physical and mental health concerns and chronic pain; and (8) implement harm reductions strategies and interventions to address SUDs, primarily opioid use disorder (OUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD).

New Jersey has designated two Centers of Excellence (COE) in the treatment of SUDs, one at Rowan University/Cooper Medical School in Camden, NJ and another located at Rutgers University Medical School in Newark, NJ. The COEs offer free training, mentoring and telephonic assistance to prescribers or individuals who are becoming certified to offer medications that treat individuals with a SUD. These services will be available to assist the successful bidder.

This RFP is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant. Total annualized funding for this RFP is \$1,700,000 subject to federal appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making up to four (4) awards of up to \$425,000 each.

**Available Funding Amount:** Total funding for this initiative is \$1,700,000 subject to federal appropriations.

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

- The bidder must be a homeless shelter licensed through the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) with a commitment to providing medication and support to individuals with an SUD OR a Substance Use Disorder Treatment provider licensed by Department of Health Office of the Certificate of Need and Licensing who will affiliate with a shelter and provide services on-site at the shelter in accordance with P.L.2023, c.62;<sup>1</sup>
- The bidder may partner with an OBAT or licensed SUD provider to provide the low threshold services described. Services should be provided in accordance with all licensing regulations, including the MAT waiver issued by the NJ Department of Health (DOH), Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing (CN&L); any partnering agency must have the ability to provide low threshold services to participants in this initiative;
- The bidder must be a non-profit or governmental entity;
- 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 submission;

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<sup>1</sup> Services on-site at shelters and low-threshold services can be provided by agencies licensed by DOH CN&L per P.L.2023, c.62.

- 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;
- The bidder must not appear on the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report at <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml> or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds; and
- 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.

**Proposal Procedure:** Effective January 25, 2024, 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 March 8, 2024.

January 22, 2024

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Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

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Date