

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

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

#### Opioid Reduction Options (ORO) in the Emergency Department

**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:** Opioid Reduction Options (“ORO”) in the Emergency Department

**Purpose:** This Request for Proposals (this “RFP”) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (“DHS”), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“DMHAS”) to solicit proposals from health facilities (the “Vendors”) to develop and implement a program to increase awareness and focus on non-opioid pain management strategies, reduce the use of opioids in Emergency Departments (“ED”)s and reduce the subsequent prescribing of opioids at ED discharge.

This RFP is primarily funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (“SAMHSA”) State Opioid Response to Grants (“SOR”) to address the opioid epidemic in New Jersey. Funding is available for FFY 2021. There is some additional state funding included. Total funding is \$1,125,000 subject to federal and state appropriations. Awards will be made for a one-year period.

According to a 2015 study of opioid prescribing in a cross section of U.S. ED’s, 17% of discharged patients received an opioid prescription (Hoppe JA., Nelson LS., Perrone J., Weiner SG. Prescribing Opioids Safely in the Emergency Department (“POSED”) Study Investigators. Opioid prescribing in a cross section of U.S. emergency departments. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2015. September; 66 3: 253- 259). The intent of this RFP is to utilize the Opioid Reduction Options (“ORO”) Plan (See RFP Section IV) to assist health facilities in the implementation of clinical protocols that focus on alternative prescriptions, therapies, or procedures as outlined herein when clinically indicated. As a result of the methods outlined in the ORO Plan, and those implemented by the awarded Vendors, DMHAS seeks a reduction in opioid prescriptions written in New Jersey’s EDs at discharge to 12% or lower. Two (2) tiers of responsible and qualified Vendors will be established for the provision of services outlined in each tier of the ORO Plan:

1. Silver Tier; and
2. Gold Tier.

As part of this RFP, awarded Vendors will receive funding as demonstrated below.

**TABLE 1**

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Funding (per award)</b>	<b>Estimated # of Awardees in each Tier</b>
Silver	\$50,000	2
Gold	\$100,000	10
<b>Note:</b> Funding match by the awardee is not required.		

Following the initial mandatory educational training, which will be offered by the Department of Health (“DOH”), Vendors will be divided into two (2) Learning Community (“LC”) cohorts, one for the Silver level and one for the Gold level. DMHAS reserves the right to increase the number of Vendors in one or more tiers if the number of Vendors in one or more tiers is less than the estimated number of Vendors reflected in Table 1. For example, if there are only 7 eligible applicants and awards issued for the Gold Tier, then the remaining dollars will be redistributed to the Silver Tier should there be more eligible applicants for the Silver Tier than the estimated number of Vendors. Specifically, DMHAS reserves the right to issue more awards than the estimated number of Vendors in each Tier based on the rank order of proposal scoring from this solicitation.

Contract payments will be made in three installments based on achievement of Tier deliverables.

**Available Funding Amount:** Total funding is \$1,125,000 subject to federal and state appropriations.

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

- The Vendor is a New Jersey acute care hospital with an Emergency Department and licensed by the NJ Department of Health. Hospitals with an opioid prescription rate in the ED at discharge of 5% or higher as of March 2020 are eligible to apply;
- Vendor did not receive a prior ORO award;
- For a Vendor that has a contract with DMHAS in place when this RFP is issued, that Vendor must have all outstanding Plans of Correction (“PoC”) for deficiencies submitted to DMHAS for approval prior to proposal submission;
- The Vendor must be fiscally viable based upon an assessment of the Vendor's audited financial statements. If a Vendor 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 Vendor 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;

- The Vendor shall not employ a member of the Board of Directors as an employee or in a consultant capacity; and
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, a for-profit Vendor and each proposed subcontractor must have a valid Business Registration Certificate on file with the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services. This statutory requirement does not apply to non-profit organizations, private colleges and universities, or state and municipal agencies.

**Proposal Procedure:** Effective March 11, 2021, 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  
5 Commerce Way, Suite 100  
PO Box 362  
Hamilton, NJ 08691-0362

**Submission Deadline:** Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2021.

**Notification Date:** Bidders will be notified on or before April 30, 2021.



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Sarah Adelman, Acting Commissioner

March 9, 2021

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Date