

Behavioral Health Partnership for Early Diversion of Adults and Youth

(Short Title: Early Diversion)

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) No. SM-23-012

Questions and Answers

- **Are nonprofits and LLCs that operate in this scope of work eligible to apply?**

Per the NOFO on page 18, eligible applicants are States and territories; political subdivisions of states; Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act; a health facility or program operated in accordance with a contract or award with the Indian Health Service; and public or non-profit entities. Eligibility is also in Appendix C. Note that per the NOFO on page 9, all required activities must be provided by applicants directly, by subrecipients, or through referrals to applicant partner agencies.

- **Can we apply if we have a pre-arraignment diversion program?**

This project is meant for early diversion efforts before arrest and booking in Intercepts 0 and 1 of the Sequential Intercept Model. However, an Allowable Activity can be providing services to adults and youth with mental illness and COD upon release.

- **There is a wide range of services that should be available to clients. This appears to limit the geographical areas where the program can take place. Please comment on the program being implemented in a specific geographical area.**

Per the NOFO page 27 in the Project Narrative SECTION A: Population of Focus and Statement of Need 1., the applicant must “Identify and describe your population(s) of focus and the geographic catchment area where early diversion services from the criminal or juvenile justice systems will be delivered. Provide a demographic profile of the population of focus in terms of race, ethnicity, federally recognized tribe (if applicable), language, sex, gender identify, sexual orientation, age, and socioeconomic status.”

- **Can the program focus on youth and young adults?**

Yes, the purpose of this program is to establish or expand programs that divert adults and/or youth with a mental illness or a co-occurring disorder (COD) from the criminal justice or juvenile justice system to community-based mental health and substance use disorder services (SUD) and other supports prior to arrest and booking.

- **Required Project Director and Evaluator: should these be with the provider or with us? Can these funds come out of the project funds?**

There needs to be one Project Director and one Evaluator for the entire project. These persons coordinate, lead and is accountable for the overall operation and implementation of the grant. These key staff positions can be contracted.

- **Are we able to use Medicaid billing as a valid source for the 25% match that is required for this program?**

Per the NOFO Page 18, “Non-federal contributions may be in case or in-kind. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may **not be** included in determining the amount of the non-Federal contributions.”

- **We have a question regarding the requirement that “a provider organization for direct client mental health/co-occurring disorder services appropriate to the grant must be involved in the proposed project.” Could you please let us know if a COD capable provider fulfills SAMHSA’s requirement?**

These paragraphs from page 19 of the NOFO stipulate the requirements for approved provider organizations. The agency you have in mind must fit all that is listed below.

Evidence of Experience and Credentials SAMHSA believes that only existing, experienced, and appropriately credentialed organizations with demonstrated infrastructure and expertise will be able to provide the required activities quickly and effectively. All required activities must be provided by applicants directly, by subrecipients, or through referrals to applicant partner agencies. Applicants must submit evidence under Attachment 1 of their application meeting three additional requirements related to the provision of services.

The three requirements are:

- o A provider organization for direct client mental health/co-occurring disorder services appropriate to the grant must be involved in the proposed project. The provider may be the applicant, or another organization committed to the project. More than one provider organization may be involved.
- o Each mental health/co-occurring disorder treatment provider organization must have at least two years of experience (as of the due date of the application) providing relevant services (official documents must establish that the organization has provided relevant services for the last two years).
- o Each mental health/co-occurring disorder treatment provider organization must comply with all applicable local (city, county) and state licensing, accreditation, and certification requirements, as of the due date of the application. The above requirements apply to all service provider organizations